

On Top Of The News

Email: news@arubatoday.com

Website: www.arubatoday.com

Thursday, May 14, 2009



Price of a barrel
of petroleum
today:

US\$ 58.02 ↓
83

INSIDE TODAY

WORLD NEWS

ILLEGALS
CRACKDOWN

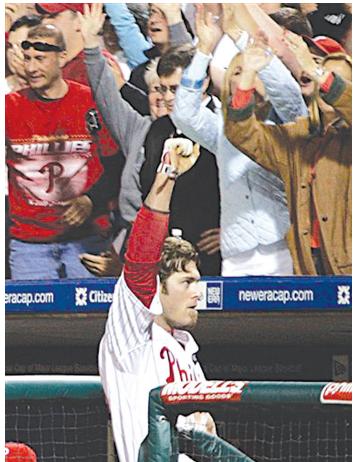


A rescued female migrant reacts while waiting with other migrants to disembark an Italian coast guard boat while arriving at the port of Tripoli, Libya Thursday, May 7, 2009. Italy shipped more than 200 migrants who had been rescued in the Mediterranean Sea back to Libya on Thursday as Rome pressed its crackdown on illegal immigration.

See INTERNATIONAL NEWS

SPORTS NEWS

WERTH IT



Philadelphia Phillies' Jayson Werth makes a curtain call after stealing home in the seventh inning of a baseball game with the Los Angeles Dodgers, Tuesday, May 12, 2009, in Philadelphia. The Phillies won 5-3.

See Sports Today

The Spanish branch of the non-governmental organization

Louis Vuitton is proud to support OrphanAid Africa

Godmothered by famous actress Rossy de Palma

-- Louis Vuitton's associations with artists date back to the origins of the company with a recurrent concern to collaborate for the benefit of various charities. This year the famous House is pleased to support Spanish talented artist Rossy de Palma while creating an unedited collection of Louis Vuitton fans. This creation logically completes the elegant art of travel renowned and enhanced by the collections of Louis Vuitton. "Louis Vuitton is proud to pledge its commitment to OrphanAid Africa.

Continued on Page 12



Baptism in fire

Former beauty Queen joins Amazonia on Mother's Day



PALM BEACH – The beautiful Carolina Raven joined the team at Amazonia Churrascaria on the eve of Mother's Day. "We were very close to breaking our all time record that day," says Restaurant Manager Hubert Solagnier, "and Carolina joined us at a very busy time, and did well under fire. At the end of the evening we had to unfortunately turn some patrons down," he adds, "but we will be running a special again at the end of the month to please our local clients," he promises. Hubert, Carolina and the entire staff invite the public to go back to Amazonia Churrascaria anytime, and stay tuned for a special. □

TODAY'S
McCOMBO
MONDAY TO THURSDAY

f 7.50
each one



THURSDAY
DOUBLE CHEESE BURGER

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Guests are coming night after night to sample the new menu

Everyone comes back for more at Moby Dick's



Marriott Surf Club owners Donna and Jim Erhardt with friend Christopher Morter enjoying two nights in a row at Moby Dick's Seafood Restaurant together with owners Brian Reeve, Gilbert Senchi with New Mermaid Chantal van Leeuwen.

PASEO HERENCIA – Moby Dick's has one mission; to take you to the depths of the blue ocean to taste some of the most exquisite dishes to come from the deep. What a truly beautiful restaurant this is, and what a unique interior to match. The inside is studded with artwork,

amazing glass carvings, and both floors are dominated by gigantic fountains, with water running from ceiling to floor along multicoloured lit fibre optic cables. The stairway is lined by an impressive painting which runs along the complete wall. The menu promises to be a true seafood lovers

dream. Lobsters, fresh fish fillets, shrimps, Moby Dick's has everything on the menu. There is of course a land lubbers section for those who are so disposed. The wine list is impressive to say the least, and the cocktails are definitely worth a taste.

Moby Dick's is open for lunch as well. The chef has made a well rounded, extensive menu for you to choose from. You will find what you want, whatever your craving may be at that time. The staff is amongst the friendliest on the island, ever so attentive to your every whim. So long story short, for unbelievable seafood in unique surroundings, go to Moby Dick's. You'll have a whale of a time! For More information and Reservations Call: 586 8333 □



La Cabana owners Rose and John from Buffalo, NY are enjoying their vacation celebrating at Moby Dick's restaurant with Captain Modesto Suarez.



Richard and Monique In'Tveld enjoying their evening at Moby Dick's with Isidore Philosoph.

The best Brazilian Steakhouse in Aruba! Serving the Island's most exquisite deserts...

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For rewards log on www.texasdebrazil.com

PALM BEACH – The health and calorie conscious among us need fear steakhouses no more. Whether it's a low-carb, low-fat, or even vegetarian diet you follow, Texas de Brazil Churrascaria fits into just about every dieter's menu plan.

Low carb eaters will have all their expectations surpassed with a tempting carnivorous selection of umpteen cuts of sizzling beef, pork, lamb, sausage, and poultry. The meats are prepared in the healthiest style of cooking—slow roasting—where much of the fat drips off in the roasting process, so those looking for a lower fat option to sautéing, pan frying, or deep frying will also be able to indulge.

The Brazilian-style steakhouse also offers up a garden full of healthy eats on a lavish 40-item seasonal salad bar, giving dieters plenty to choose from to accompany the

slow-roasted meats. A selection of fresh lettuces and vegetables may be standard for most salad bars, but **Texas de Brazil's** version goes a gourmet twist further, treating the palate to additional items like marinated portabella mushrooms, sweet roasted bell peppers, hearts of palm, sundried tomatoes, imported cheeses—including fresh buffalo mozzarella—sushi, homemade soups, and much more. The salad bar is included in the continuous service meal with unlimited choices from the grilled meats, but for vegetarians or the non-meat eaters, a special price is offered for just the salad bar.

Of course, for those looking to splurge while on vacation, **Texas de Brazil** will gladly serve their garlic mashed potatoes, traditional fried plantains, and their world-famous parmesan cheese bread as part of the meal.

Restaurant
open daily

Monday - Sat 6 pm - 11
Sunday 5 pm - 11 pm

For more information or to
make reservations, please
call 586-4686. □





Amazonia

CHURRASCARIA

For an **ULTIMATE** dining experience...

Bring this ad and receive
15% DISCOUNT!

Not valid with other promotions. Beverages and desserts not included.
Offer not valid for salad bar only and kids menu. Six persons maximum - one certificate per table!



AAA welcomes another world renowned store

Lacoste is now officially open at the airport!



ORANJESTAD - Recently the Lacoste store officially opened its doors at the Queen Beatrix International Airport. Lacoste operates a duty free shop, offering a great

assortment of Lacoste fashion articles to our departing passengers using our airport. Lacoste is a world renowned brand, recognized worldwide for its high quality products for



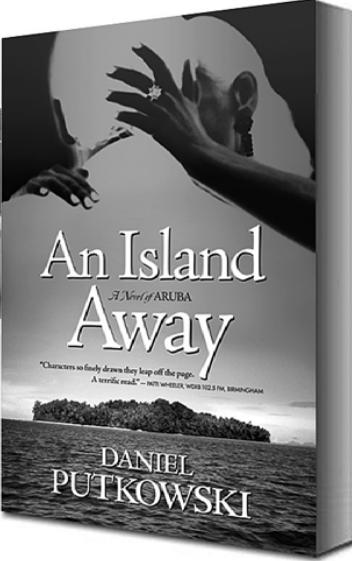
kids, teens and adults. Lacoste offers sporty and casual wear and is a must-visit-store for our departing passengers. The

airport is very pleased to have Lacoste as its newest addition to its main shopping area! AAA N.V. congratulates

Lacoste with its third store in Aruba and looks forward to a fruitful business relation with this new business partner. □



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 VanDorp Gifts - Tamarin Aruba
 VanDorp Gifts - Paradise Beach Villas

VanDorp Gifts - Manchebo
 DeWit & VanDorp - Certified MegaMall
 DeWit & VanDorp - Dakota
 DeWit & VanDorp - Oranjestad
 Aruba Post - San Nicolas
 Samsom Bookstore - Antraco Retail Center
 Antraco Bazaar - Casa Del Mar
 Ocean Drive - Aruba Marriott Resort

Island Life - Marriott Ocean Club
 Mistral - La Cabana
 Red Sail Sports - Hyatt Regency Resort
 Red Sail Sports - Port of Call
 Tropical Breeze - Radisson Resort
 Tradewyns - Westin Resort
 Tropical Market - Marriott Ocean Club
 Tropical Temptations - Costa Linda

amazon.com
 bn.com
 DeWit & VanDorp
 red sail sports
 ANTRACO



Pupils of Catherine Provence-Hanrath and Rob Rijnbout in concert

ORANJESTAD - On, Sunday April the 5th 2009: Pupils of the Music school on Aruba named 'Scol di Musica Rufo Wever' presented a beautiful concert with a lot of variety. The audience could enjoy an attractive program played on Recorders, Keyboard, Xylophones and small Percussion instruments.

The concert was in the hall of S.P.C.O.A. situated at Primavera.

The afternoon was closed with 2 exiting pieces played by Catherine Provence-Hanrath and Rob Rijnbout on the keyboard. They played a waltz from Antonin Dvorak and the famous waltz 'Preciosa' from Rufo Wever which was excellently arranged by Rob Rijnbout and played by the 2 pianists in a "dancing mood".



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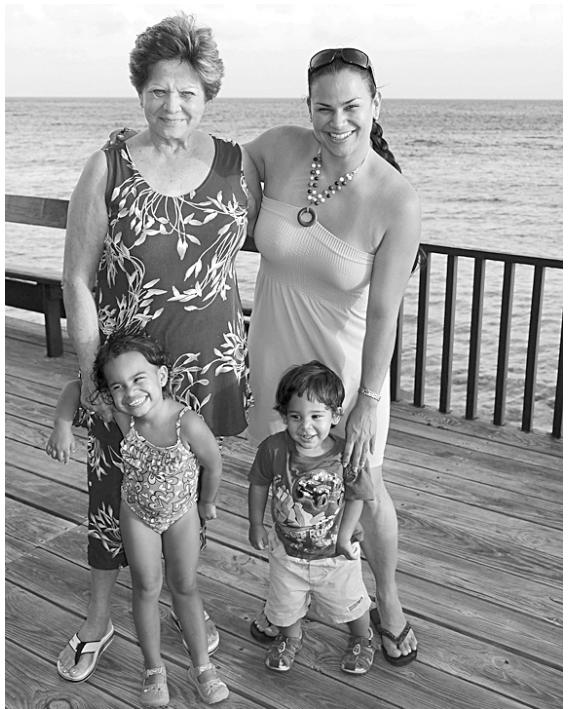
For information and reservations: Tel: 586-5900 • E-mail: aqua-grill@setarnet.aw • www.aqua-grill.com

"This hip restaurant is heaven on earth for seafood lovers"

Fodor's Travel Guide



Kyle Solognier turns 2 with loved ones



ARUBA - Recently, Kyle Ethan Solognier celebrated his second birthday with loved ones. The birthday celebration took place at the magical reef home owned by grandparents Dr. Lin and his lovely wife Gladys.

SueAnn Lin, mother of Kyle and his lovely sister Maylin, 3, enjoyed a fun filled afternoon with family members and friends who joined in to make this a memorable birthday celebration□



"Musa Art House Theater"

"Goodbye Lenin" by: Wolfgang Becker Thursday 14th May 2009 at 8.00pm.

DOWNTOWN - Musa Art House Theater has the honor of inviting you to a special film cycle on Art House films. These films have received international acclaim and give us a glimpse of the new global cinema.

Director: Wolfgang Becker
Cast: Daniel Bruhl, Katrin Sab, Chulpan Khamatova, Maria Simon, Florian Lukas.

Running Time: 121 minutes

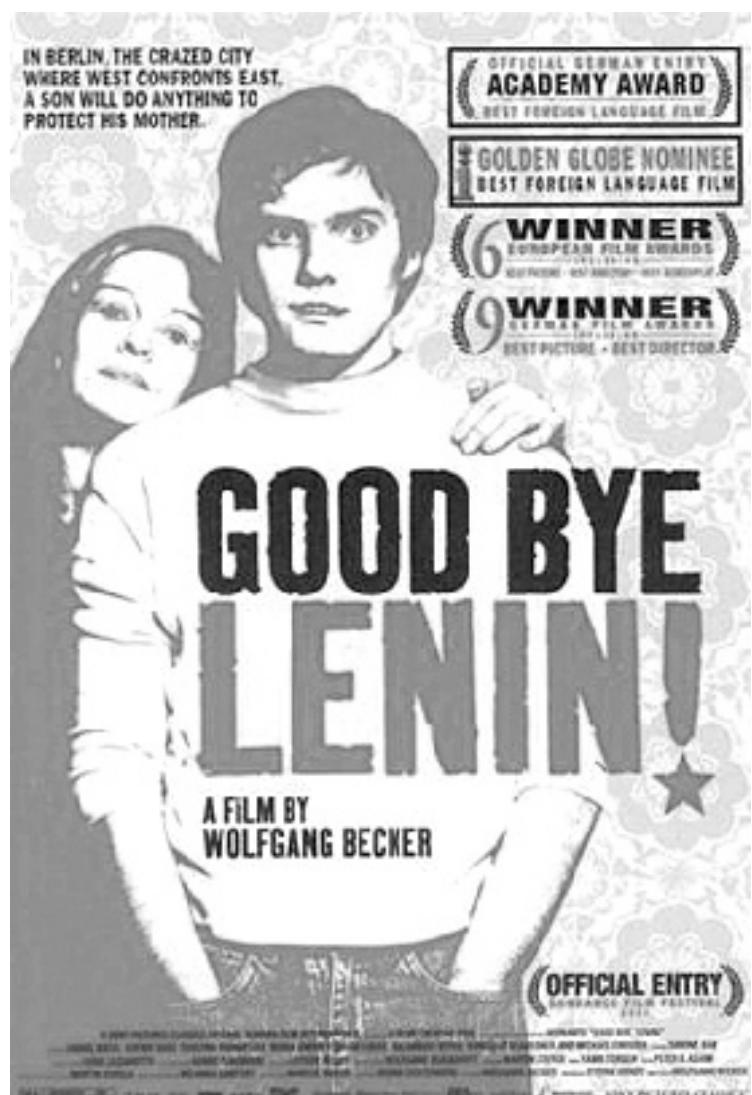
Awards: Nominated for Golden Globe, another 31 wins & 14 nominations

Subtitle: English

"Goodbye Linnin" by Wolfgang Becker is an unexpectedly beautiful

foreign film written and directed by Wolfgang Becker that deals with East Germany shortly before the Berlin Wall came down. A mother has a heart attack before the Wall comes down, comes out of her coma after the Wall is down and her family, especially her son, is instructed to not let her have any more excitement as it would surely lead to a fatal heart attack. Knowing of his mother's great love and loyalty to East Germany, the son (beautifully played by Daniel Bruhl) decides that he must do whatever it takes to make sure his mother does not find out that Germany has become unified. What follows is a

film of great history, great poetry and great power. Several of the scenes in the film continue to be present in my mind long after I have viewed the film. One scene in which mother, played by Katrin Sab, first goes outside following her return to consciousness is one of the most visually stunning scenes I have witnessed on film and Sab...with little more than facial expression offers one of those powerful cinematic moments that just leaves you breathless. Of course, there is a certain suspension of belief here as the con being perpetrated by the son becomes more and more and more elaborate... yet, the characters are so well



Ministry of Health

Be a Germ Stopper!



Department of Public Health
Aruba

Welcome to Aruba

To enjoy your vacation it is important to prevent becoming sick.

To keep you and everyone around you safe, practice the following good health habits

1. Avoid close contact

Avoid close contact with people who are sick. When you are sick, keep your distance from others to protect them from getting sick too.

2. Cover your mouth and nose

Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when coughing or sneezing. It may prevent those around you from getting sick.

3. Clean your hands

Washing your hands often will protect you from germs.

4. Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth

Germs are often spread when a person touches something that is contaminated with germs and then touches his or her eyes, nose or mouth.

5. Practice other good health habits

Get plenty of sleep, be physically active, manage your stress, drink plenty of fluids and eat nutritious food.

6. Feeling sick?

Please call 588-7381 / 588-7130

developed and interesting that I found myself willing to suspend belief.

The film, in fact, is quite touching and dramatic in nature.

This film is powerful, poignant and beautiful to behold.

Contribution is strongly suggested in order to continue with our film club presentation. (Afl 10,-)

N.B.: Remember that now once again is possible to enjoy a light meal before the film at the newly reopened "Musa Café"

This night will also be a good opportunity to view the fantastic exhibit by Elizabeth Olle Curiel,

Gustave Nouel, Danilo Geerman, Belinda De Veer, Elisa Le Juez, Mo Mohammed, Jean Girigori, Luis Baretto, Noff El Hadi and other works by local and regional artist exhibited.

N.B.: Musa Art House Theater proudly presents a production of Sonfaya2020, a theatrical performance consisting of 5 monologues "Mi Muhernan Arubiano"

Directed by Takhai Mohamed

Actress: Vicky Arens, Jacqueline Woodley, Astra Paesch, Gilena Geerman and Mijenou Tromp.

Date: Saturday 23 May 2009

Time: 8.00 pm



The Quill and Boven important bird areas

ST. EUSTATIUS-- Representatives of Birdlife Netherlands made it officially known Friday during a presentation at the Lt. Governor's Office that The Quill and Boven areas in St. Eustatius National Park have been internationally recognised as important bird areas.

Bird Life (Vogelbescherming) Director Fred Wouters and advisor Bert Denneman were visiting St. Eustatius prior to joining nature conservation organisations at the Dutch Caribbean Nature Alliance board meeting taking place in Saba this week.

Nicole Esteban of St. Eustatius National Parks (Stenapa) was also present during the presentation,

during which Wouters presented Lt. Governor Hyden Gittens with a copy of the new publication, Important Bird Areas (IBA) of the Caribbean, which features several pages about St. Eustatius.

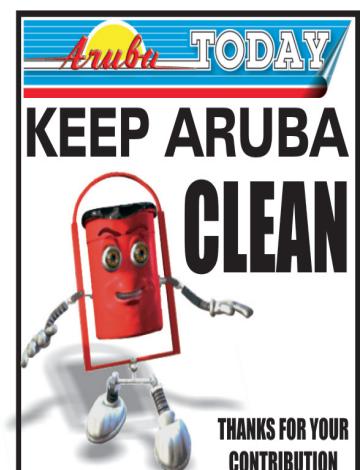
In the publication, a characterisation is given of the Quill and Boven

areas, as well as a list of bird species of international interest found in these areas, such as the Antillean Crested Hummingbird, Green-Throated Carib, Red-Billed Tropic Bird and Bridled Quail Dove.

Esteban said that Vogelbescherming had raised 120,000 euros from

their membership in the Netherlands in 2008, for the Dutch Caribbean Nature Alliance to organise two bird conservation projects, to set up monitoring stations, and to produce bird identification sheets and guides for each island of the Netherlands Antilles. She said that bird monitoring

in St. Eustatius commenced in October 2008. As a result, the recognised bird list has increased from 56 resident and migrating birds to 58. More information about St. Eustatius National Park and its feathered inhabitants is available at the St. Eustatius National Parks Visitor Centre in Lower Town. □





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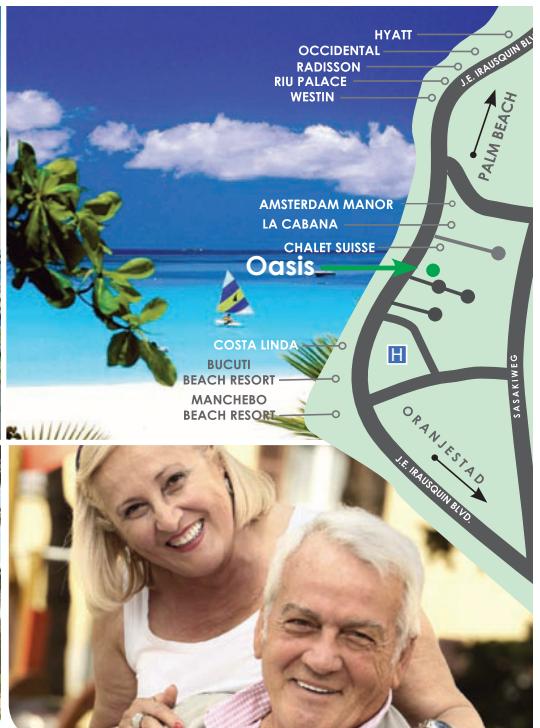

OASIS

at Eagle Beach

ARUBA

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LEARN HOW YOU CAN BECOME
PART OF THIS LUXURY
CONDOMINIUM RESIDENCE



EAGLE BEACH - Oasis Luxury Condominiums is a Mediterranean-style designed complex located on the prestigious Eagle Beach right next to Chalet Suisse consisting of a total of 35 units dis-

**35 EXCLUSIVE OCEAN VIEW UNITS
STARTING IN THE LOW 400'S**

tributed on five (5) floors. The one, two and three bedroom suites have a perfect view of the ocean and beach. The units include, among other amenities, floor to ceiling glass doors and panoramic windows, spacious terraces, marble bathrooms, European kitchens

with granite counter tops and a full stainless steel appliance package including washer and dryer. This 35-condominium complex will feature a beautiful swimming pool with a beach style entry with waterfalls and fountain and state of the art fiber optic lighting. The entrance of the building has a drive-up covered entrance and an elegant two-story lobby leading to the sun-filled hallways and corridors. The common area will facilitate the owners with a well-equipped gym overlooking the gardens and the pool.

The garden will feel like an oasis true to the projects name. There will also be a recreation room and sofas throughout the common area to lounge and relax. Further amenities include a 24/7 security, a full concierge and a rental program for the owners who want to earn a return on their investment. The concierge service will be helpful to assist the owners in making their 'homecoming' a very pleasant return. Each condo will have one designated parking space exclusive to the owners. Construction on Oasis at Eagle

Beach is moving fast. Fifteen of the thirty five units have already been sold. The condominiums will be ready for occupancy by March 2010. Oasis is located on Eagle Beach which allows for an easy access, even on foot, to the best casinos, restaurants, golf courses, shopping areas and night life the Aruba has to offer.

The experienced sales team of Oasis invites you for a visit to learn about this new gem on the beach.

The site tour will take you up in the complex where you will enjoy spectacular views of the ocean and beach as well as a wonderfull view of Oranjestad where the cruise ships are docked. The views from the rooftop terrace are stunning to say the least. The Oasis sales team is ready to assist you.

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INFO@OASISARUBA.COM

MARRIOTT serves brunch for 1,150 people for MOTHER'S DAY



PALM BEACH - This past Sunday, the Aruba Marriott Resort & Stellaris Casino

warmly welcomed all mothers and their loved ones for a special Mother's Day

celebration. At La Vista Restaurant, a sumptuous breakfast & brunch buffet was offered from 7 am until 2 pm. The breakfast & brunch buffet offered all your favorite salads, eggs, muffins & Danish, fresh fruits and yoghurts as well as a pizza station, fresh seafood and a carving station with ham and prime ribs. A never ending flow of Mimosas and champagne were also offered complimentary.

After a satisfying start of



the day with the rich breakfast & brunch, guests made time for the Mother's Day Bingo in the Grand Ballroom with

over \$8,000 in cash prizes and a Bingo Progressive at \$30,000.

Photos by Julia Renfro



Photo by Julia Renfro

Dutch couple exchange rings & eternal vows

Birgit & Gerard celebrate love with marriage



Photo by Julia Renfro



Photo by Julia Renfro



Photo by Julia Renfro



Photo by Julia Renfro

ARUBA – On May 2, 2009, Birgit Aas and Gerard van der Lee celebrated their commitment to one another with marriage. They exchanged rings and vows at the Historic Town Hall in downtown Oranjestad in the presence of Government Officiate Beto

Christiaans and their family and friends as witnesses. Birgit and Gerard's sons Sander and Jasper delivered the rings to exchange during the ceremony as Birgit and Gerard shared their vows of commitment and love.

The van der Lee's are currently



Photo by Julia Renfro



Photo by Julia Renfro



Photo by Julia Renfro

residing on the island and plenty of family and friends joined in the celebration and ceremonies hailing from Holland and the USA. After the Civil Ceremony in downtown, the van der Lee's drove a Hummer decorated in flowers to many of their favorite locations on the island for photos. While the newlyweds were on a photo shoot, their friends were busy preparing a afternoon party at Mocha's in the Paseo Herencia Mall. Mocha's prepared a variety of typical Dutch delights for the couple, their friends and family before heading to the sunset beach blessing at the fabulous Flying Fishbone private party area. Birgit and Gerard repeated their vows on the beach before Vlootpredikant Dick Pranger of the Royal Dutch Marines as the sun gently set into the Caribbean Sea behind them. Bingo Restaurant quickly took over the party by catering to everyone's whims and needs with fabulous service of Champagne, Cocktails, and a Delicious Dinner and Desert. Congratulations to the van



Photo by Julia Renfro

Driftwood Authentic Aruban Seafood Restaurant offers diners the ultimate dining experience in freshly line caught fish.



ORANJESTAD - Why should seafood enthusiast and other diners alike go to Driftwood Restaurant? Well let's start by mentioning that their fish is caught daily by the owner himself and prepared by a local chef. "Just like mama makes it." The food is fresh, the staff is friendly, and the place is definitely buzzing. If you want to catch your own fresh fish and can't stay for a sit-down dinner, enjoy their Charter Fishing trip and have them prepare it for you. Trust me; it doesn't get any fresher than this: From pier to plate as their motto says.



Fried fish would be the common choice, but you can get your entrée broiled, grilled or baked. However you can indulge in the more guilty options for lobster, Alaskan king crab legs, grouper, shrimp, Black Angus tenderloin and so forth. Ease your

conscience and add a salad or go all out and try their delicious crab cakes, fish soup, garlic escargots, lobster crepe and coconut shrimps before your hearty entrée.



While seafood stars at Driftwood, fish-phobic diners will not go hungry. They have a staggeringly vast menu, which doesn't miss much of anything, from authentic Aruban seafood, lobster, Alaskan king crab legs to chicken, lamb or steaks.

Q: Why do we serve only fresh line caught fish?

A: How fresh would you be after a net caught fish frozen import from Asia?



Driftwood restaurant has a long tradition of serving the best seafood and steaks for over 20 years!

Don't forget to make this a must dine at restaurant while on vacation, you are sure to indulge in some great tasty seafood.



Restaurant information and reservation: open daily (closed on Tuesdays) from 5pm-10:30pm. Tel. 583-2515. Located at Klipstraat 12 in the heart of downtown Oranjestad, within driving distance from the resorts. □



FRESH FISH TONIGHT?

...AT DRIFTWOOD RESTAURANT
T. (297) 583-2515

"Aruhiba" Aruba's homemade cigar



ORANJESTAD - Benjamin Petrochi has started the newest

export product of Aruba, locally produced cigars called 'Aruhiba'. These cigars are produced and cultivated in Aruba. Petrochi has always had an interest in the cigar business and has also sold cigars from outside, and now he is growing his own tobacco crop. After many attempts and trips to Santo Domingo and Cuba he started his own production and cultivation of "Aruhiba" cigars in Aruba. The process took 5 years Petrochi's dedication to the cigars is important for the molding and



process of making a perfect cigar which takes a long time. The cigar case is specially designed for the cigars with the logo 'Aruhiba' and 'Made in Aruba'. Petrochi considers 'Aruhiba' a promotion for Aruba through fine quality cigars.

The company sells international cigars as well. Buy a gift box of Aruhiba Corona with five cigars and get 1 free for \$35.00. Located at the Historic Dutch



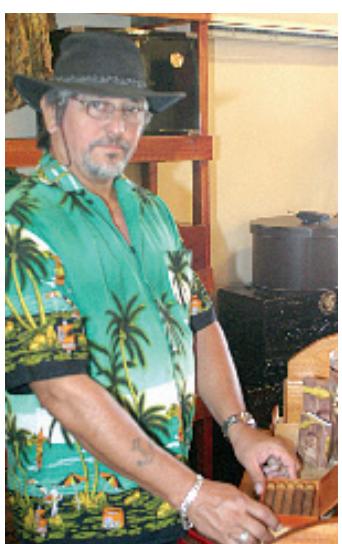
Windmill from 9am to 8pm. Open on Sunday.

And also at Tamarijn: open 9am - 5pm and Sunday from 9am to 1pm.

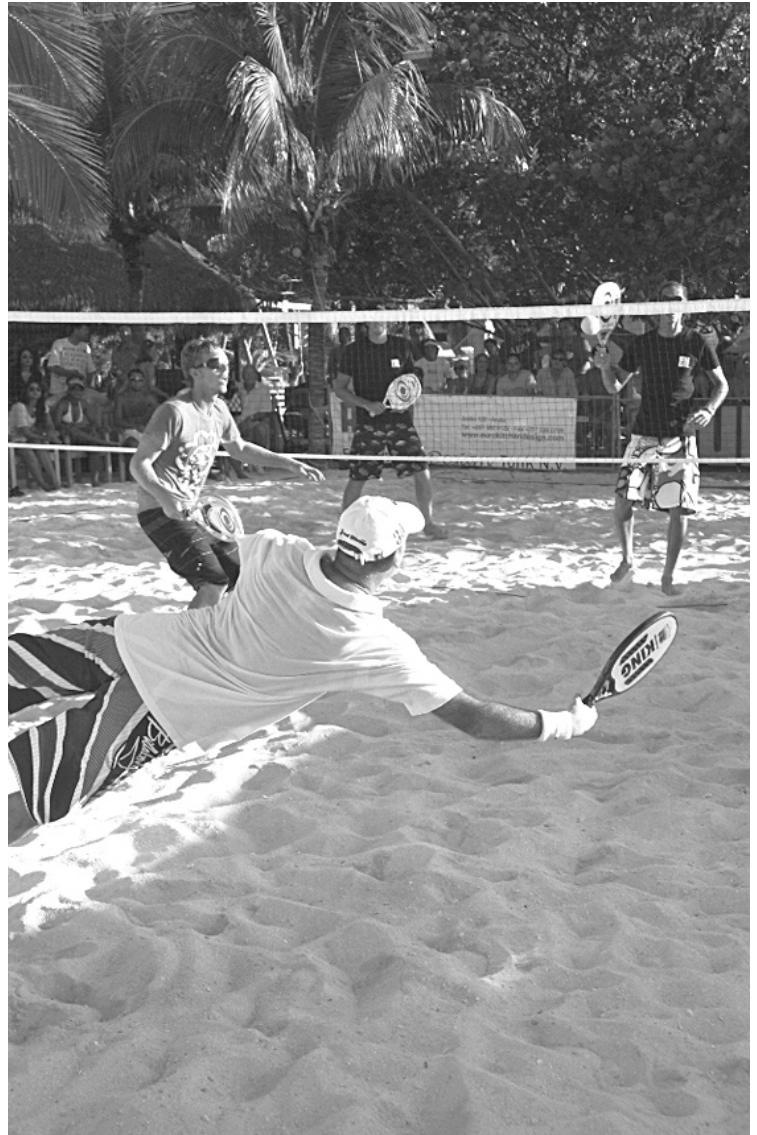
The only place to get Aruhiba and all major credit cards accepted.

We have homemade and best premium Cuban Cigars. All cigars are legal through costum.

Call 586-7833 or 593-6177. Open for tour operators and we have a large parking space. Come and see Mr. Petrochi rolling the cigars everyday.



One day Beach Tennis tournament for 'every body'



EAGLE BEACH - This Sunday May 17th there will be an spectacular Beach Tennis tournament at Eagle beach(across Le Dome).

Everybody can play in it, you don't have to be a tennis player or top athlete.

Also for non players there is a lot to see/do with a nice bar with cold drinks, grill, your feet in the sand while DJ Dulce keeps the ambiance relaxed and up! There is a special youth division from 1 till 4pm, kids can just show up and who plays get a soft drink too!

The adult tournament starts at 12 till sunset, register at www.arubabeachtennis.com or call 5837074/5926421

Beach Tennis Aruba is powered by; Alno Kitchen, Amstel bright Aruba Aloe, Bacardi Mojito & Inter Assure □



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Louis Vuitton is proud to support OrphanAid Africa



Continued from Front Page

When we first learned about the groundbreaking work and the far-reaching goals of the organization's programs, we immediately decided to support Rossy de Palma, Godmother of the Spanish Branch of the NGO. Her role in the fight to promote care as well as access to healthcare and education for children in Ghana while encouraging family's ties is a noble inspiration to us, and we sincerely believe in its fundamental benefit", says Yves Carcelle, Chairman and CEO of Louis Vuitton.

The Louis Vuitton fan: the combination of an ultimate luxury accessory with a noble cause.

Faithful to her native country, Rossy de Palma, conceptualized these fans

through the inspiration of the sweetness and the refinement of the Iberian "art de vivre". "The idea came right after the fantastic re-opening celebration of the Louis Vuitton Champs Elysées house that I attended... the party was so great with all the stars and artists, and when I discovered this amazing store and all that kind of beautiful collections inside I just realized that there was no fan, and I thought then that something was missing especially for this brand well-known for the art of travel, so I was sure that we could make it, first because Louis Vuitton is the example of luxury and leadership of which only the sky is its limit, and second because the company is sincerely involved in art and social responsibility through the various charities they are



involved with. I am sure that the ultimate luxury can find its real meaning in humanism" declares Rossy de Palma. The shape and design of the fans elegantly "evokes an eye, an eye of awareness" pursues de Palma, "a sight which underscores the world around us, the reality of a community which can be helped with care and consideration. We look at Ghana and at all the possible ways we can help this country. The Louis Vuitton fundraising initiative which will be realized with these beautiful and high end fans will also help the children in Ghana to have a better life with their families" concludes Rossy de Palma.

Composed of the best quality components such as hand cut wood of Madagascar pieces, palladium covered brass, and made with an incredible care and know-how made by craftsmen in Spain, this collection of fans elaborated in two shapes presents one regular version produced and commercialized in a limited quantity of 200 pieces at a price of 400 euros and another unique more luxuriously version, which will be presented in its small Monogram embossed patent leather trunk, elegantly closed with a black double face silk ribbon. This genuine piece of art will be auctioned.

The fan represents an eye whose pupil is a lock. The key can be found among the charms fixed to the clasp. The inside cut-out, which constitutes the white of the eye, represents the Metalic Monogram mesh of the Champs Elysées House façade, and gives to the fan owner the opportunity to show-off or to hide behind it... The iris is circled by silver palladium which highlights and reinforces the depth of the look. Black cock feathers play the role of the lashes, and give the fan all its magnificence. Each feather has a different size and a different thickness, and is attached by hand for a natural and harmonious finishing. A very elegant and refined engraving at the base of the lashes symbolizes the Monogram flowers. «El ojo de la conciencia», the fan's name chosen by Rossy De Palma is engraved behind the first rod, to be only visible by the owner.



Two charms in shiny palladium are linked to the clasp: a key, with the refined Louis Vuitton signature, and a glamorous articulated fan showing on one side Rossy De Palma's profile, and the signature of the House on the other. The fans will be only available in the eight Louis Vuitton stores in Spain, in Barcelona, Bilbao, Madrid, Valencia and Puerto Banus from March 26th to April 30th 2009. □



BUSINESS

Aruba TODAY

Stocks fall on weak retail sales, foreclosure jump

By MADLEN READ and STEPHEN BERNARD, AP Business Writers

NEW YORK – Investors are looking at the economy more skeptically.

Stocks retreated more than 2 percent on Wednesday and bond prices rose after two reports suggested the economy is not bouncing back as quickly as investors hoped. The Commerce Department said retail sales unexpectedly fell in April for the second straight month, while RealtyTrac Inc. reported a troubling rise in home foreclosures.

Investors are mindful that the Dow Jones industrial average spiked 31 percent from its early March lows — the biggest jump in such a short span since the 1930s. After Wednesday's decline the index is still up 26.5 percent from March 9, but investors are now wondering if the market will see a sharper pullback. Analysts say a drop of 10 percent from the market's recent peak would hardly be surprising, especially since recent economic readings have failed to beat forecasts.

"Overall, it's just a market that's due for a pause, due for a pullback, due for consolidation," said Quincy Crosby, chief investment strategist for The Hartford. "You don't want markets to skyrocket. The higher you go, the deeper you fall."

Few analysts, however, anticipate the stock market to sink lower than it did in March.

"What we've done over the past month-and-a-half is remove this idea of Armageddon," said Charlie Smith, chief investment officer at Fort Pitt Capital.

The Dow fell 184.22, or 2.2 percent, to 8,284.89.

Broader stock indicators sank even more sharply. The Standard & Poor's 500 index

fell 24.43, or 2.7 percent, to 883.92, while the Nasdaq composite index declined 51.73, or 3 percent, to 1,664.19.

The decline put the S&P 500, a widely used barometer for mutual funds and professional investors alike, back into the negative column for the year to date. The had S&P edged above that level on May 4.

During the market's two-month advance, investors grew accustomed to data indicating that the economy, while not growing, was at least bottoming out. This week, unexpectedly worse data has thrown a wrench into the works.

On Wednesday, economists predicted April retail sales would be flat, but instead they fell, and March's sales decline was revised to an even larger drop.

Macy's Inc. offered another sign that consumer spending is not on the rebound. The department store operator said its loss in the first-quarter widened from a year ago to \$88 million. Macy's fell 83 cents, or 6.7 percent, to \$11.52.

Meanwhile, the main driver of the recession — the collapsing housing market — has yet to turn around. RealtyTrac data said April's foreclosures were up 32 percent from a year ago, and up slightly from March. It was the second straight month that more than 340,000 U.S. households received a foreclosure filing.

More economic data is on the way this week. Nicholas Colas, chief market strategist at BNY ConvergEx, said Thursday's weekly unemployment claims report is weighing on the market. The release will be the first to fully incorporate plant closings at Chrysler LLC — making it a "real wild card," he said.

"As a trader," he said, "do you want to build positions ahead of the number?"

Financial stocks once again drove the market. The KBW Bank Index, which tracks 24 of the nation's largest banks, fell 6.5 percent.

Krosby pointed to both stock and bond offerings by banks, which dilute current shareholders, and news that the Obama administration wants a say in executive pay at financial institutions.

Bond prices rose on Wednesday's negative economic news, pushing the yield on the benchmark 10-year Treasury note, a benchmark for key borrowing rates such as home mortgages, down to 3.12 percent from 3.18 percent late Tuesday. The yield on the three-month T-bill slipped to 0.16 percent from 0.17 percent.

About 9 stocks rose for every one that fell on the New York Stock Exchange, where consolidated volume came to 6.7 billion shares, little changed from Tuesday.

The dollar mostly rose against other major currencies, while gold prices also rose.



Job seekers line-up outside Madison Square Garden for a job fair in New York, Wednesday, May 13, 2009. Investors are uneasy about a potential increase in weekly jobless claims filings because the data will be the first to fully incorporate plant closings at Chrysler LLC.

(AP Photo/Richard Drew)

The Russell 2000 index of smaller companies fell 23.36, or 4.7 percent, to 471.82.

Overseas, Japan's Nikkei stock average rose 0.5 percent. Britain's FTSE 100 declined 2.1 percent, Germany's DAX index declined 2.6 percent, and France's CAC-40 fell 2.4 percent. The biggest gainer in the Dow was General Motors Corp., which dropped to its lowest price since April 1933, and then attracted bargain

hunters. GM ended up 6 cents, or 5.2 percent, at \$1.21.

CME Group Inc., the parent company of the Chicago Board of Trade and the Chicago Mercantile Exchange, rose \$15.62, or 6 percent, to \$274.10. A draft letter to Congress said the Treasury Department wants a central electronic-based system to track the buying and selling of over-the-counter derivatives.

Whole Foods 2Q profit falls 32 percent

AUSTIN, Texas – Whole Foods Market Inc. said Wednesday that its profit fell 32 percent in its second fiscal quarter as shoppers cut back on spending during the recession.

However, its results came in ahead of Wall Street expectations and it reaffirmed its full-year outlook. Shares of the company jumped on the news, gaining \$1.50, or 7.5 percent, to \$21.45 in after-hours trading. The stock closed the regular session down 9.4 percent at \$20.

The Austin-based grocery chain reported that it earned \$27.3 million, or 19 cents per share, for the quarter ended April 12. That is down from \$40 million, or 29 cents per share for the same quarter last year.

The company's quarterly sales were flat at \$1.86 billion.

Analysts expected the company to earn 18

cents per share on revenue of \$1.87 billion. Whole Foods said its same-store sales decreased 4.8 percent in the quarter, versus a 6.7 percent increase in the prior year period. Same-store sales, or sales at stores open at least a year, are a key measure of retailer performance.

Whole Foods Chief Executive John Mackey said he was pleased with the results. He pointed to the company's free cash flow of \$98 million and expense controls as positive highlights for the quarter, despite the sales trends.

Whole Foods maintained its guidance for the full-year, saying it expects sales of roughly \$8 billion and a profit of 71 cents to 76 cents per share, including costs related to its settlement with the Federal Trade Commission and preferred stock issue.

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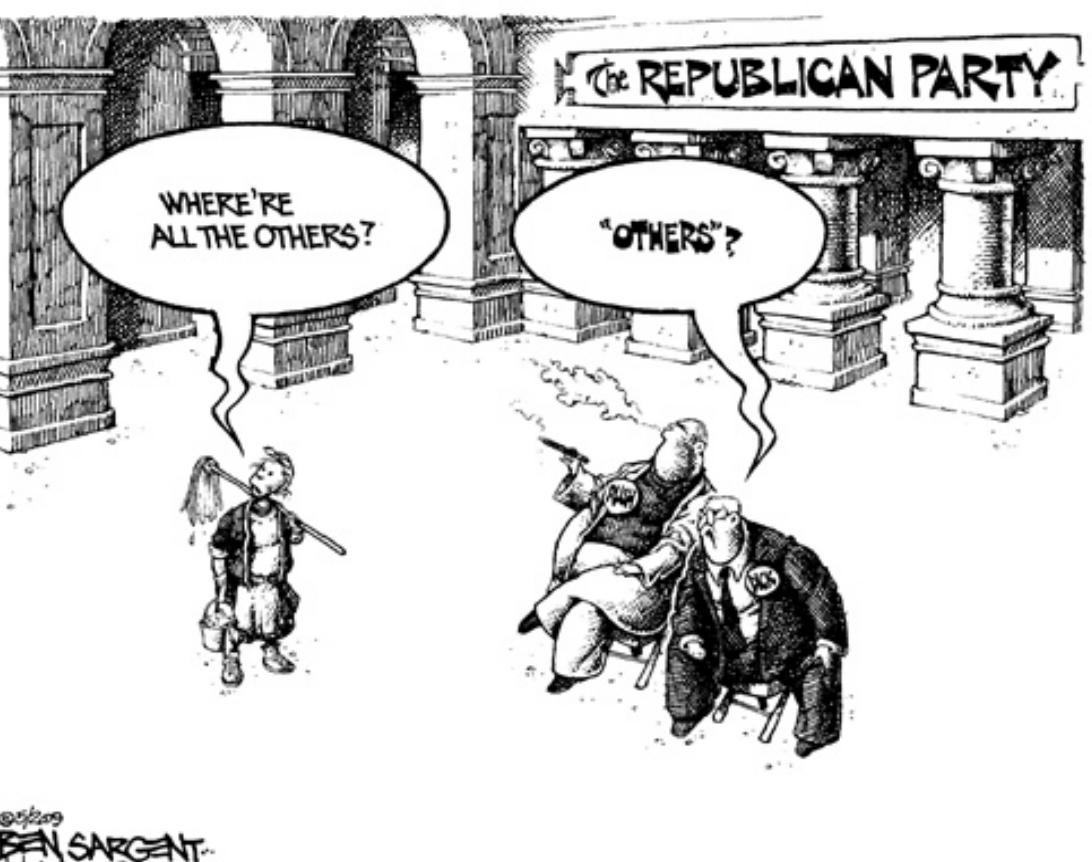
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5/12

Saberi's Release A Good Omen for US-Iran Talks

Robert Dreyfuss

The Nation -- Here's what I wonder: If an Iranian journalist came to the United States, deliberately let his reporter's credentials expire, took a job working for an important US agency that handles confidential or classified material, and then secretly copied one of those documents out of "curiosity," do you think he would have been released by an appeals court? Or do you think that he might have received, say, eight years in prison for espionage?

Roxana Saberi is a very lucky woman. As the Independent reported, not only did she copy a secret Iranian document about the war in Iraq, but she also visited Israel:

A joyful Roxana Saberi yesterday thanked those who helped win her release as her lawyer revealed his client had been convicted of spying in part because she had a copy of a confidential Iranian report on the war in Iraq.

Ms Saberi, a freelance journalist who was freed on Monday after four months in prison in Tehran, had copied the report "out of curiosity" while she worked as a freelance translator for a powerful body connected to Iran's ruling clerics, said the lawyer, Saleh Nikbakht.

It turned into a key part of the prosecution's case against Ms Saberi during her secret, closed-door trial in mid-April before an Iranian security court, Mr Nikbakht said. Prosecutors had also cited a trip to Israel that Ms Saberi had made in 2006, he said.

More will come out on this story, I suppose. The same newspaper reports:

Ms Saberi had admitted that she had copied the document two years ago but said she had not passed it on to the Americans as prosecutors had claimed. ... Ms Saberi also told the appeals court that she had engaged in no activities against Iran during her visit to Israel.

According to Reuters, the document in question was a report prepared by the Center for Strategic Research in Tehran.

Hillary Clinton, celebrating her release, said: "We continue to take issue with the charges against her and the verdicts rendered, but we are very heartened that she has been released."

It's comforting to take the whole story at face value, and to assume that Saberi was a naive and innocent bystander in a power struggle between moderates and hardliners in Iran, of course. President Ahmadinejad intervened in the case, seemingly pushing for leniency and fairness. At least one observer in Iran, Ibrahim Yazdi -- who is no fan of the hardliners, though he served as foreign minister in the early days of the Islamic Republic -- told the Times □

Obama puts Israel at risk

By Ariel Cohen

The May 18 meeting between President Obama and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is critical for both nations. US-Israeli relations are in danger of deteriorating to the lowest point since Dwight Eisenhower ordered Israeli troops to evacuate Sinai in 1956 -- an event that contributed to the 1967 Six-Day War. The summit may define relations between these two democracies for the duration of the Obama administration and beyond.

The White House seems to be intentionally slighting Israel in advance of the summit, even as it raises the stakes. Obama's chief of staff, Rahm Emanuel, and National Security Adviser Gen. James Jones appear to have linked US willingness to stop Iran's nuclear program to receiving Israeli concessions regarding the two-state solution.

This is both immoral and counterproductive. Immoral, because it is dangerously close to blackmailing the Jewish state with a nuclear holocaust, planned by the Holocaust denier-in-chief, Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad. Counterproductive, because potential Iranian nukes would threaten American interests and allies in the Middle East, including the oil-producing Gulf states.

The Obama administration is advocating steps that would jeopardize Israeli security. There is concern that it might approve an Arab-backed plan that could compel Israel to withdraw to indefensible 1967 cease-fire lines. The late, dovish Israeli foreign minister, Abba Eban, called these lines "the borders of Auschwitz."

The administration supports dividing Jerusalem to make a Palestinian capital. Such division was not a happy solution for Berlin decades ago. Jerusalem should not be cut in half by barbed wire fences. It also wants Israel to join the ineffective Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. The US had committed in a bilateral agreement not to tamper with the Israeli nuclear shield. At a time when Iran seems on the verge of acquiring nuclear weapons, this is

like demanding that a man in a rough neighborhood give up his shotgun when the criminal next door is getting a Kalashnikov.

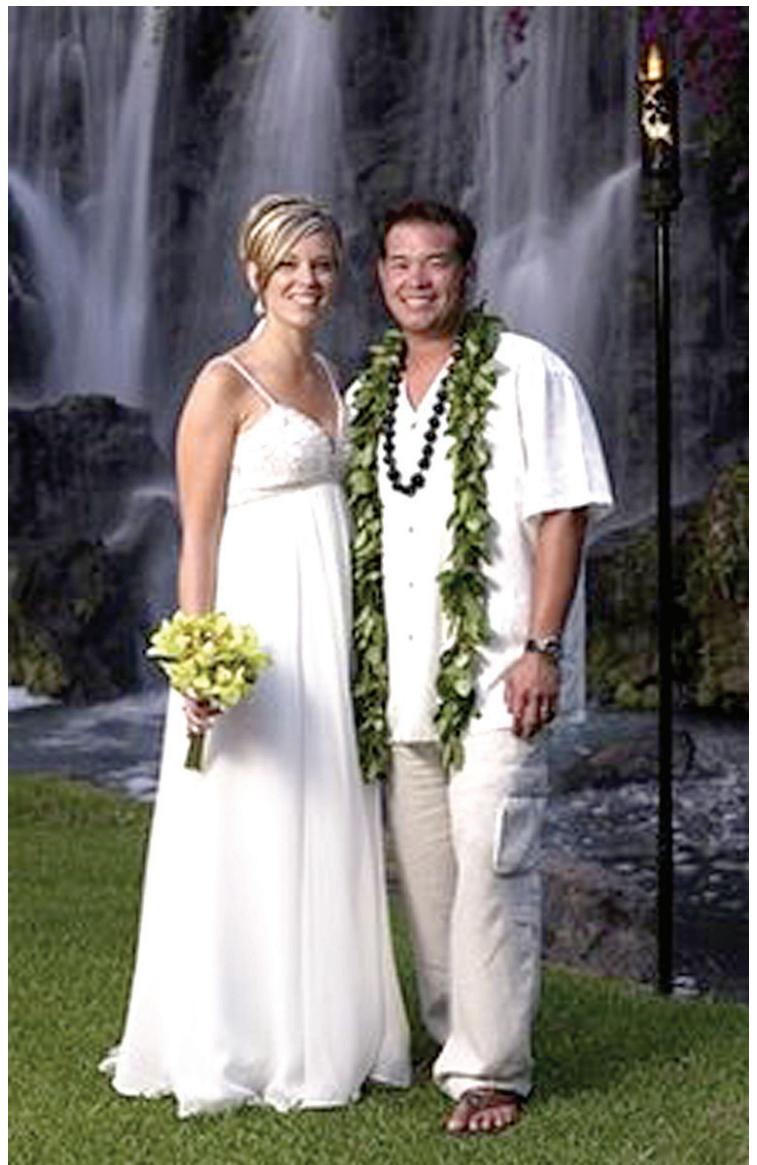
All this occurs at a time when the terrorist organization Hamas is gaining strength. Polls predict that it would win Palestinian elections. If "Hamastan" arises in Gaza and the West Bank, it will probably become the next terror state, one keenly interested in destabilizing the US ally Jordan, as well.

The bigger picture is even more alarming. The administration is spending precious time and political capital trying for a quick fix to an intractable conflict. Obama and his top officials are meeting with the kings of Saudi Arabia and Jordan, the Egyptian president, the Europeans, and the Russians to effectively develop a plan that Israel had no part in formulating -- and which would be imposed on it by extreme pressure.

This grand design is based on the "Arab peace plan" penned by the Saudis. It envisions settling millions of the 1948 Palestinian refugees and their descendants in Israel, a country the size of New Jersey.

This would irrevocably change the nature of Israel and create an ever greater terror threat. In pursuing this track, the Obama administration risks repeating the mistakes of its predecessors who also eagerly embraced instant solutions. Consider Camp David II in 2000, after which Yasser Arafat triggered the second intifada that killed more than 5,000 overall. The administration seems to be making three grave errors. The first is disregarding reality. The entrenched hostility of the Arab world and radical Muslims toward Israel is there for all to see. The core issue is that the Arab elites have not accepted Israel's existence in the region. This fundamental point cannot be overlooked. A second major mistake is arm-twisting a staunch democratic ally to curry favor among a deeply anti-American Arab and Islamic world. Doing so would send a message of weakness. □

TV's Jon and Kate draw more media attention



In this publicity image released by TLC, reality TV stars, Jon Gosselin, right, and his wife Kate Gosselin, from the TLC series, 'Jon & Kate Plus 8,' are shown in Hawaii.

(AP Photo/TLC, Mark Arbeit)

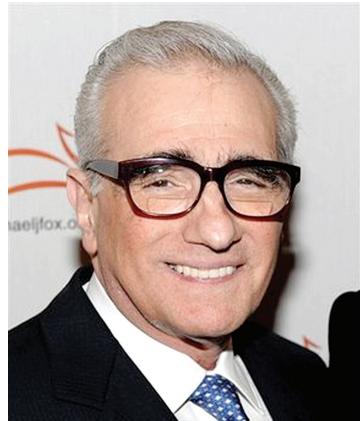
By FRAZIER MOORE,
AP Television Writer

NEW YORK — Reality-TV couple Jon and Kate took more pounding in the media Wednesday. Meanwhile, it was hard to say how the harsh spotlight being focused on the Gosselin marriage would affect their TLC series, "Jon & Kate Plus 8."

On its Web site, Us Weekly described an over friendly relationship between Kate Gosselin and her married bodyguard, Steve Neild, that "caught the attention of her husband, Jon — and has become the talk of many locals" in their Pennsylvania community.

And People magazine's Web

Martin Scorsese to direct biopic of Frank Sinatra



LOS ANGELES — Martin Scorsese (scor-SAY'-zee) will be telling Frank Sinatra's life

FILE - In this Nov. 5, 2008 file photo, director Martin Scorsese arrives at 'A Funny Thing Happened On The Way To Cure Parkinson's' the Michael J Fox Foundation benefit gala in New York.

(AP Photo/Evan Agostini, file)

story on film.

Universal Pictures says the Academy Award-winning filmmaker will direct "Sinatra," the first feature film about Ol' Blue Eyes' life. □

site quoted Gosselin as saying she and her husband have been struggling for months.

"I don't know that we're in the same place anymore, that we want the same thing," she said.

"I've been struggling with the question of 'who is this person?' for a while." Gosselin, who has previously denied having an affair with Neild, recalled the first time she heard the name of the woman with whom her husband was reportedly having an affair. "It's one of those things where you can try to make it go away," Gosselin said, "but there's blaring, red flashing lights."

Jon Gosselin has denied cheating with the 23-year-

old schoolteacher, and he apologized for putting his family in an "awkward situation."

But Kate Gosselin told People she can finally envision a future apart from Jon.

"When your mind is ready to go there," she said, "you can accept any number of scenarios."

However it turns out, this unfolding soap opera is a different kind of show than the first four seasons of "Jon & Kate Plus 8."

TLC's most popular series, it attracts an average audience of more than 2.8 million viewers as the Gosselins, along with their eight children, face the wholesome, everyday challenges of family life. □

Marital discord afflicting TV co-stars could give "Jon & Kate" a new tone.

"There's no question they're going through a tough time," said TLC spokeswoman Laurie Goldberg. "But we are shooting, and the series is continuing."

The new, 40-week season will premiere May 25 with an hourlong edition.

"Jon and Kate will talk about what's going on, with all the scrutiny," said Goldberg. Although she didn't specify how the show's narrative would factor in the continuing scandal, "the show is based on authenticity," she said, "and with all the allegations that are out there, it's important that they talk about them." □

Farrah Fawcett longed for miracle, but nears end



Actors Farrah Fawcett (L) and Ryan O'Neal are shown in this publicity photo from the video diary "Farrah's Story" released to Reuters May 13, 2009. Fawcett, who has been battling cancer, will tell her own version of events in the program that is scheduled to air on May 15, 2009 on NBC.

REUTERS/NBC/Handout

By Christine Kearney

NEW YORK (Reuters) — Actress Farrah Fawcett was hoping for a miracle in the early days of her battle with anal cancer, but longtime companion Ryan O'Neal is now looking tearfully to a life without her.

"I do not want to die of this disease. I want to stay alive. So I say to God ... it is seriously time for a miracle," Fawcett said two years ago in a video diary chronicling her two and a half year battle with cancer.

The video diary, "Farrah's Story," will be broadcast on NBC television on Friday as the "Charlie's Angels" star appears to be nearing the end of her life. NBC released excerpts on Wednesday.

In an emotional interview with NBC's "Today" program that was shown on Wednesday, O'Neal described Fawcett as "powerful, courageous, fearless" throughout the highs and lows since she was first diagnosed in 2006.

"I know this -- that in the last

two years I loved her more than I've ever loved her, ever," he said of their tumultuous relationship. "She's the rock. She taught us all how to cope. She is extraordinary, I don't know what I will do without her."

O'Neal, 68, who is the father of Fawcett's son, Redmond O'Neal, said she believed there would be better times ahead when she decided to film her struggle.

"I think she may have believed that she would survive and have a document, a film document -- that is not how it is going," he said.

O'Neal told People magazine in an interview last week that Fawcett, 62, was now bedridden, had lost her famous blonde hair, and that her treatment "has pretty much ended."

Fawcett found international fame in the 1970s for her role as the tanned, blonde private eye in the hit television show "Charlie's Angels". Her good looks and flowing hair came to epitomize the glamour of the California life-style.

Fawcett used a home video camera to film and narrate her visits to doctors in Germany and the United States, and time with friends. □

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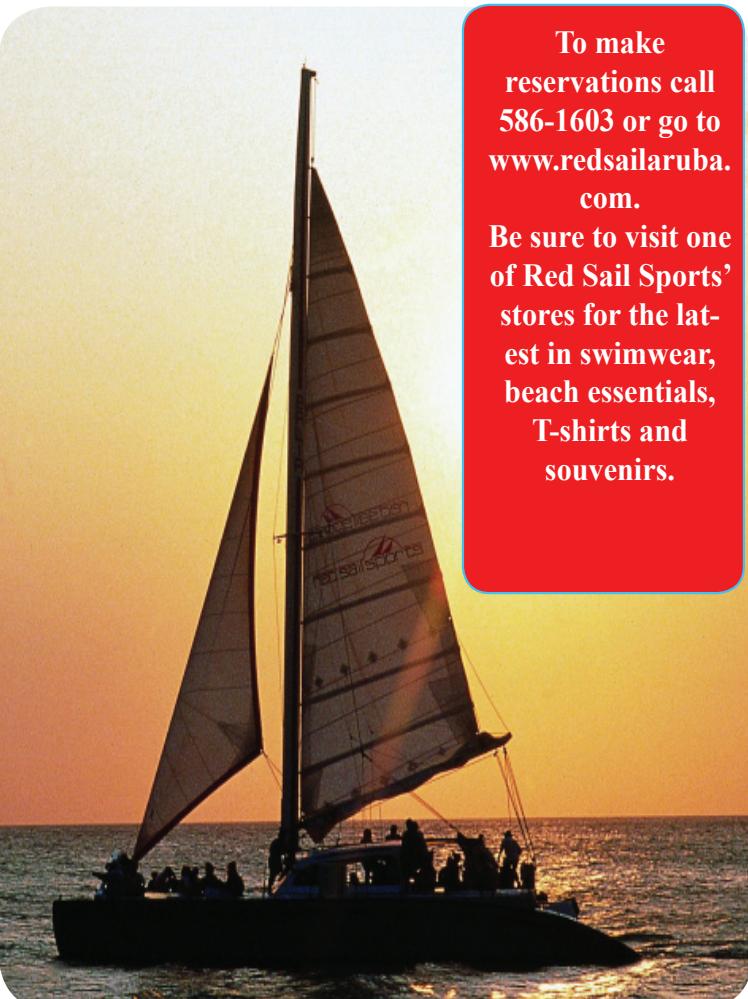


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On Top Of The News

Email: arubatoday@gmail.com

Thursday, May 14, 2009



President Barack Obama makes a statement on the situation in Sri Lanka, Wednesday, May 13, 2009, as he departed for a trip to Phoenix, Ariz.

Associated Press

In reversal, Obama seeks to block abuse photos

JENNIFER LOVEN

AP White House Correspondent

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Barack Obama declared Monday he would try to block the court-ordered release of photos that show U.S. troops abusing prisoners. He said the abrupt reversal of his position came out of concern that the pictures would "further inflame anti-American opinion" and endanger U.S. forces in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The White House had said last month it would not oppose an appeals court ruling that set a May 28 deadline for releasing dozens of photos from military investigations of alleged misconduct. But American commanders in the war zones have expressed deep concern about fresh damage the photos might do, especially as the United States tries to wind down the Iraq war and step up operations against the Taliban and al-Qaida in Afghanistan.

When photos emerged in 2004 from the infamous U.S.-run Abu Ghraib prison in Iraq, showing grinning American soldiers posing with detainees — some of the prisoners naked, some being held on leashes — the pictures caused a huge anti-American backlash around the globe, particularly among Muslims.

Obama, explaining his change of heart on releasing the other photos, said they already had served their purpose in investigations of "a small number of individuals." Those cases were all concluded by 2004, and the president

said "the individuals who were involved have been identified, and appropriate actions have been taken."

The Pentagon conducted 200 investigations into alleged abuse connected with the photos in question. The administration did not provide an immediate accounting of how they turned out. "This is not a situation in which the Pentagon has concealed or sought to justify inappropriate action," Obama said of the photos. "In fact, the most direct consequence of releasing them, I believe, would be to further inflame anti-American opinion and to put our troops in greater danger."

Spokesman Robert Gibbs said release of photos from the cases would merely "provide, in some ways, a sensationalistic portion of that investigation." Obama said later, "I want to emphasize that these photos that were requested in this case are not particularly sensational, especially when compared to the painful images that we remember from Abu Ghraib."

Still, he said he had made it newly clear: "Any abuse of detainees is unacceptable. It is against our values. It endangers our security. It will not be tolerated." The effort to keep the photos from becoming public represented a sharp reversal from Obama's repeated pledges for open government, and in particular from his promise to be forthcoming with information that courts have ruled should be publicly available.

Continued on Page B3

AP sources: Obama has more than 6 people for court



President Barack Obama and Vice President Joe Biden, center, meet with senators in the Oval Office of the White House in Washington, Wednesday, May 13, 2009, to discuss the Supreme Court appointment. From left are, Sen. Jeff Sessions, R-Ala., ranking Republican on the Senate Judiciary Committee; Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell of Ky.; the vice president; the president; Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid of Nev.; and Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Sen. Patrick Leahy, D-Vt.

Associated Press

BEN FELLER

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Barack Obama is considering a mix of more than six Supreme Court candidates that features women and Hispanics, a group made up of three judges, a governor, his homeland security secretary and his solicitor general.

Continued on Page B4



Pope Benedict XVI delivers his address at the Aida Refugee camp in the West Bank town of Bethlehem, Wednesday, May 13, 2009. In background, a watch tower part of a separation barrier Israel has erected to wall off the West Bank's Palestinian areas. The Pope is on a five-day visit to Israel and the Palestinian Territories.

Associated Press

In Bethlehem, Pope calls for a Palestinian state

DIAA HADID

Associated Press Writers

BETHLEHEM, West Bank (AP) — Standing in the cradle of Christianity, Pope Benedict XVI told Palestinians Wednesday he understood their suffering and offered his strongest and most symbolic public backing yet for an independent Palestinian state.

Continued on Page B8



Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton, center, receives an honorary degree from New York University during the school's commencement ceremony at Yankee Stadium in New York, Wednesday, May 13, 2009. Others from left are, trustee Khaldoon Khalifa Al Mubarak, NYU Provost David McLaughlin, and NYU President John Sexton.

MATTHEW LEE
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Secretary of State Hillary

Associated Press

Rodham Clinton said Wednesday she will travel to Latin America in coming weeks to further U.S. goals

Clinton to visit Latin America

in the region where she recently expressed concern about inroads by Iran, Russia and China.

Clinton will visit El Salvador to attend the June 1 inauguration of Salvadoran president-elect Mauricio Funes and then Honduras where she will participate in the June 2-3 annual general assembly of the Organization of American States, she said.

The trip will be a follow-on to last month's Summit of the Americas in Trinidad and

Tobago at which President Barack Obama said his administration was willing to pursue more positive relations with all nations in the Western Hemisphere.

"For our part, the United States has been engaging our neighbors ... to find collaborative and effective

ways to move forward in areas of urgent concern," Clinton told a meeting of

the Council of Americas, announcing her trip and noting recent hemispheric cooperation on combatting the H1N1 swine flu virus.

U.S. ties with several Latin American countries, including Venezuela, Nicaragua and Bolivia, which are all headed by democratically elected but leftist leaders, languished during the Bush administration.

Earlier this month, Clinton said told State Department employees that the Obama administration is looking at restoring ambassadorial-level representation and other strategies aimed at those nations.

She also said the U.S. also wants better relations with

Cuba but wants to evidence of reform on the communist island.

On May 1, Clinton told State Department employees that the President George W. Bush's Latin American policy had been counterproductive, allowing leftist leaders like Venezuela's Hugo Chavez, Bolivia's Evo Morales and Nicaragua's Daniel Ortega to promote anti-U.S. sentiment and rely on aid from China, Iran and Russia.

She said the growing influence of China and Iran in those countries is "quite disturbing" and that "they are building strong economic and political connections with a lot of these leaders.

I don't think that's in our interest." □



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As such, it invited criticism from the more liberal segments of his Democratic Party, which want a full accounting, and even redress, for what they see as the misdeeds of the former Bush administration.

"The decision to not release the photographs makes a mockery of President Obama's promise of transparency and accountability," said ACLU attorney Amrit Singh, who had argued and won the case before the 2nd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in New York. "It is essential that these photographs be released so that the public can examine for itself the full scale and scope of prisoner abuse that was conducted in its name." On Capitol Hill, Republicans welcomed the change, however. A military group also said it was relieved.

"These photos represent isolated incidents where the offending servicemen and women have already been prosecuted," said Brian Wise, executive director of Military Families United.

"There is no good that can come from releasing these photos."

The reactions were a reverse of what happened after Obama's decision last month to release documents that detailed brutal interrogation techniques used by the CIA against terror suspects. Those also came out in response to an ACLU lawsuit, and his decision then brought harsh and continuing criticism from Republicans.

This time he is kicking the decision back into court, where his administration still could be forced to release the photos.

Indeed, there is some evidence that the administration has little case left.

Gibbs said the president instructed administration lawyers to challenge the photos' release based on the national security implications. He said that argument was not used before.

But the Bush administration already argued against the release on national security grounds, and lost.

"It is plainly insufficient to claim that releasing documents could reasonably be expected to endanger some unspecified member of a group so vast

as to encompass all United States troops, coalition forces, and civilians in Iraq and Afghanistan," the three-judge appeals panel wrote in September 2008.

The Justice Department had concluded that further appeal would probably be fruitless, and last month, Gibbs said the president had concurred with that conclusion, although without commenting on whether Obama would support the release if not pressed by a court case.

Thus, the administration assured a federal judge that it would turn over the material by May 28, including one batch of 21 photos and another of 23 images. The government also told the judge it was "processing for release a substantial number of other images," for a total expected to be in the hundreds.

The court also has already rejected another argument the president and his spokesman made, that the photos add little of value to the public's

understanding of the issue. "This contention disregards FOIA's central purpose of furthering governmental accountability," the appeals court panel concluded in the same decision.

Obama's own Jan. 21 memorandum on honoring the Freedom of Information Act also takes a different line. "The government should not keep information confidential merely because public officials might be embarrassed by disclosure, because errors and failures might be revealed, or because of speculative or abstract fears," it said.

The president informed Gen. Ray Odierno, commander of U.S. troops in Iraq, of his decision during a White House meeting on Tuesday.

Gen. David Petraeus, the senior commander for both wars, also had weighed in against the release, as had Gen. David McKiernan, the outgoing top general in Afghanistan.

Military commanders' concerns were most intense



White House Press Secretary Robert Gibbs speaks to reporters, Tuesday, May 12, 2009, during his daily press briefing in the White House Pressroom at the White House in Washington.

Associated Press

with respect to Afghanistan. The release would coincide with the post-winter thaw that usually heralds the year's toughest fighting there, and it would come as thousands of new U.S. troops head into Afghanistan's volatile south. Defense Secretary Robert Gates said he once had held the view that it might be best to "go through the pain once" and release a large batch of images

now, since so many are at issue in multiple lawsuits. But he and the president changed their minds when Odierno and McKiernan expressed "very great worry that release of these photographs will cost American lives," Gates said before the House Armed Services Committee in the House of Representatives. "That's all it took for me," Gates said. □

Craigslist says it will drop 'erotic services' ads

DON BABWIN

Associated Press Writer

CHICAGO (AP) — Online classifieds site Craigslist said Wednesday it will drop its controversial "erotic services" category in response to law enforcement leaders who said the ads were a front for prostitution. The old category will be replaced with one listing "adult services," and a fee will be charged, the company said. Employees will monitor every posting before it appears online — a precaution the site has been criticized for refusing to take in the past.

Pressure to remove the category increased this spring after a Boston medical student was charged with killing a masseuse who authorities say he met through Craigslist.

The move also comes two months after Sheriff Tom Dart of Cook County in Illinois filed a lawsuit alleging Craigslist not only allows the solicitation of prostitution but had created what he called the "largest source of prostitution in America."

Craigslist CEO Jim Buckmaster said the agreement preserves a place "for

legal businesses to advertise" while incorporating feedback from attorneys general, free speech advocates, law enforcement, Internet law experts and millions of Americans who use the site. Craigslist officials and attorneys general from Illinois, Connecticut and Missouri met last week to seek an end to the ads. "Craigslist's erotic services section had become nothing more than an Internet brothel," Illinois Attorney General Lisa Madigan said. The erotic services ads will expire in seven days, the Web site and Madigan's office said. □

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Treasury wants more financial regulations

down the giant insurer AIG. In a draft two-page letter to congressional leaders, the Treasury Department says it wants to create a central electronic-based system that would track the buying and selling of derivatives. It also wants to ensure that financial firms selling the instruments have enough capital on hand in case they default and subject them to stringent standards of conduct and new reporting requirements.

The legislative proposal, to be announced later Wednesday by Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner, is the administration's first major step in overhauling the U.S. financial regulatory system.

"All (over-the-counter) derivatives dealers and all other firms whose activities in those markets create large exposures to counterparties should be subject to a robust regime of prudential supervision and regulation," Treasury wrote in its draft letter.

"Key elements of that robust regulatory regime must include conservative capital requirements, business conduct standards, reporting

requirements and conservative requirements relating to initial margins on counterparty credit exposures," the department adds.

Current law largely excludes regulation of instruments, which are referred to as "over-the-counter" derivatives because they are privately traded.

New rules would deter financial firms from taking undue risk, prevent fraud and ensure they are marketed appropriately, Geithner said in the draft letter.

Geithner, who was expected to brief reporters on Wednesday, said in congressional testimony last month that he wants to force these types of contracts to be cleared through a central system.

"Let me be clear: The days when a major insurance company could bet the house on credit default swaps with no one watching and no credible backing to protect the company or taxpayers from losses must end," Geithner told Congress.

The value of over-the-counter derivatives hinges on an underlying figure or

commodity — ranging from currency rate swaps to oil futures and inflation bets. The derivative reduces the risk of loss from the underlying asset. The global business world holds a staggering \$600 trillion of these contracts. One of the most infamous examples of the derivatives were credit-default swaps sold by American International Group Inc. AIG sold the swaps to investors as a kind of insurance to protect against defaults on mortgage-backed securities. But the company had to accept a hefty federal bailout after it was unable to support the contracts.

Under Treasury's new plan,

COURTS

Continued from Page B1

The new Democratic president is making his first appointment to the court but whomever he chooses, the ideological balance of the highest U.S. judicial body is unlikely to change.

Obama's nominee would replace Justice David Souter, who is part of the court's liberal wing. The court took on a conservative bent as a result of former President George

companies like AIG would have to prove they have enough reserve capital to support its sale of the derivatives.

Also under the plan, the Commodity Futures Trading Commission would establish an "audit trail" for the derivatives and have "clear unimpeded authority to police fraud, market manipulation and other market abuses" involving the derivatives. The Securities Exchange Commission would be given "comparable authority," including tools to prevent insider trading. The new system should enable the regulators to "detect and deter all such market abuses," Geithner states. □

W. Bush's appointments.

Among those under consideration are California Supreme Court Justice Carlos Moreno, Solicitor General Elena Kagan, Michigan Gov. Jennifer Granholm, Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano and U.S. Appeals Court judges Sonia Sotomayor and Diane Pamela Wood.

Sources familiar with Obama's deliberations confirmed the names to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because no candidates have been revealed by the White House.

One official cautioned that Obama is considering other people, too, that have not been publicly mentioned. And more names may be added.

Most of the people confirmed as under consideration have been mentioned frequently as potential candidates. Moreno — the sole man on the known group of candidates — is a newer name to emerge.

Although several names have surfaced as potential nominees, the confirmation amounts to the first time any name has been directly tied to Obama.

The president is widely expected to choose a woman for a Supreme Court that has nine members but only one female justice, Ruth Bader Ginsburg.

He is also under pressure from some Latino officials to name the first U.S. Hispanic justice. Moreno and Sotomayor are Hispanic. □

Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner speaks at a news conference at the Treasury Department in Washington, Tuesday, May 12, 2009, after the annual spring meeting of the Social Security and Medicare Trustees to discuss the financial situation of the Social Security and Medicare trust funds.

Associated Press

ANNE FLAHERTY

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Obama administration is asking Congress to extend its oversight of the U.S. financial system to include the shadowy market of derivatives, the kind of complex financial instruments that helped bring

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10 dead, 17 rescued after boat sinks off Florida

MATT SEDENSKY

MIAMI BEACH, Florida (AP)

— A boat overloaded with around 30 people, possibly Haitians being smuggled to the U.S. from their desperately poor country, sank off the Florida coast early Wednesday, dropping the occupants into the sea. The Coast Guard rescued 17 and was searching for others but said at least 10 died, including one child.

The Coast Guard hadn't figured out exactly how many people were aboard, how many might still be lost at sea or how long the search would go, but it appeared certain that it fit the profile of migrant smuggling.

"The boat was obviously overloaded," Coast Guard Capt. James Fitton said. "It's a tragedy that someone would be so callous with human life."

For those familiar with the plight of Haitians, the escape attempt was no surprise.

"The economic conditions in Haiti are deplorable, and I don't see them getting any better any time soon," said Andy Gomez, a University of Miami expert on Caribbean migration. "And the Haitian-American community has developed a pretty good network here in the last five or 10 years, just as the Cuban-Americans have done, so

there's more of a reason to come."

Four tropical storms and hurricanes battered the Western Hemisphere's poorest country during last year's harvest season, killing 793 people, crippling agriculture and causing \$1 billion in damage to irrigation, bridges and roads.

In January, United Nations-sponsored groups said more aid was urgently needed to stave off famine in several areas of the country.

Fitton said the boat apparently left Bimini in the Bahamas on Tuesday night and was believed to have capsized or collided with something at about 2 a.m. Officials didn't learn about it until another boater called more than 10 hours later.

The boat has not been found, and is thought to have sunk because it hasn't been spotted from the air. Fitton said all those rescued were expected to recover. Besides children, women also were aboard, including a pregnant woman. Two helicopters, a jet and three boats were helping in the rescue effort about 15 miles off the shore of Boynton Beach where water temperatures by the afternoon were in the high 70s.

Since October, the Coast Guard had stopped 1,377 Haitians, up from 972 during the same seven-month period last year.

Chicago City Council OKs BPA baby bottle ban

By LINDSEY TANNER

AP Medical Writer

CHICAGO — Chicago on Wednesday became the first U.S. city to adopt a ban on the sale of baby bottles and sippy cups containing the chemical BPA.

The Chicago City Council approved the ban on a 48-0 vote and a spokeswoman for Mayor Richard M. Daley said he intends to sign it. The ban is slated to take effect Jan. 31, 2010.

"This is an important step in a landmark consumer protection initiative. This legislation will protect Chicago's children and send a clear message to other jurisdictions considering similar legislation," said Alderman Manny Flores, co-sponsor of the measure.

BPA, or bisphenol A, is used to harden plastics in many consumer products including CDs, sports safety equipment and reusable bottles. It's also present in some food container linings.

Experts disagree on whether it poses health risks to humans, but some manufacturers of baby bottles have voluntarily removed it because of safety questions.

"We should err on the side of caution and not needlessly expose people to the harmful effects, especially children," said Alderman Edward Burke, the measure's other sponsor.

Advocates say Chicago is the third jurisdiction in the country to ban BPA from baby bottles and sippy cups. New York's Suffolk County became the first last month, and Minnesota passed a ban last week. Last year, Canada became the first country to announce plans for a similar ban.

Some scientists and environmental advocates argue that BPA can mimic hormones and cause reproductive problems in children, but the chemicals industry says consumer products containing BPA pose no health threat.

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration has said that FDA-approved products containing BPA that are currently on the market are safe; its review of BPA research is ongoing.

A proposed federal ban on BPA in food containers is pending in Congress, and 24 states have pending bills that would restrict BPA, said Max Muller, program director of Environment Illinois, an advocacy group that supported Chicago's ban.

He called the city's action "a good first step. Children have the highest exposure. It's a limited approach but it's targeting the most vulnerable people." Consumer Reports publisher Consumers Union, which has sought a national ban on BPA in food containers, praised Chicago's decision. □



An unidentified survivor of a boat that capsized and sank off the coast of Boynton Beach, is brought into the US Coast Guard Station Lake Worth Wednesday, May 13, 2009 in Riviera Beach, Fla. The boat apparently left Bimini in the Bahamas on Tuesday night. It was believed to have flipped at about 2 a.m. but officials didn't learn about it until another boater called more than 10 hours later.

Associated Press

protective status. "The longer it takes the administration to decide whether to grant TPS, the more people may decide to attempt to make it to our shores."

Night fell on Riviera Beach, where numerous bodies were zipped into silver bags and wheeled off on gurneys after being unloaded from a Coast Guard boat. The search for others was continuing through the night.

The Coast Guard said it was not known whether the boat's captain and any crew members were among those found and survivors haven't indicated who may have organized the trip.

"We haven't even asked those questions yet," Fitton said. □

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In this May 6, 2002 file photo, Myanmar opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi, foreground, is surrounded by supporters in a massive crowd as she arrives at her party headquarters, the National League for Democracy, in Yangon. Myanmar's military government on Thursday, May 14, 2009, planned to put the detained leader on trial in connection with the intrusion of an American who sneaked into her compound last week.

Associated Press

YANGON, Myanmar (AP) — Myanmar's military government planned to put detained opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi on trial Thursday in connection with the intrusion of an American man who sneaked into her compound, a spokesman for her party said. A motorcade escorted by armed police left her home

early Thursday and reached Yangon's Insein Prison. It was not immediately known if Suu Kyi was in one of the vehicles, but her party's spokesman, Nyan Win, had said earlier that she and the two women who live with her would be taken to a court at the prison compound for trial.

Such a trial could justify

Spokesman: Trial imminent for Myanmar's Suu Kyi

another extension of Suu Kyi's years-long detention, which officially ends May 27. In the past the junta — which regards the Nobel Peace laureate as the biggest threat to their rule — has found reasons to extend her periods of house arrest, which international jurors say is illegal even under Myanmar's own law.

It was not immediately clear what accusation she faced, but Myanmar exile groups said she was likely to be charged under a catchall public security law and could face a prison term of up to seven years.

An American man, John William Yettaw, was arrested last week for allegedly swimming a lake to secretly enter Suu Kyi's home and stay there for two days. His motives remain unclear. The intrusion raised fears that Suu Kyi may have been ensnared in

activities that could put her in further legal trouble.

One of many strict rules the junta imposes on citizens is that they must notify local officials about any overnight visitor who is not a family member. The law also states that foreigners are not allowed to spend the night at a local's home.

Some members of Suu Kyi's party, the National League for Democracy, have been jailed for about two weeks for violating that law. Nyan Win said he was informed of the plan to try Suu Kyi and the two women who live with her by her lawyer, Kyi Win. Suu Kyi's two helpers are Khin Khin Win, 65, and her daughter Win Ma Ma, 41, who have lived with her since she was last detained in 2003.

Suu Kyi, 63, has already spent more than 13 of the last 19 years — including the past six

— in detention without trial for her nonviolent promotion of democracy, despite international pressure for her release.

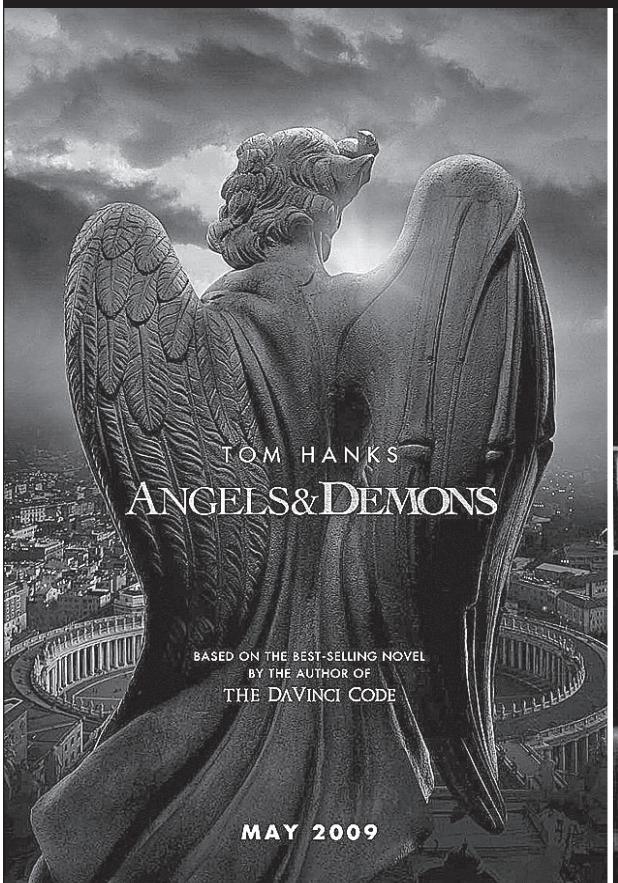
She has recently been ill, suffering from dehydration and low blood pressure. Her condition improved this week after a visit from a doctor who administered an intravenous drip, Nyan Win said on Tuesday.

According to the U.S. Campaign for Burma, a Washington, D.C.-based lobbying group opposed to military rule in Myanmar, Suu Kyi and her two helpers were to be tried together with Suu Kyi's personal doctor, Tin Myo Win, and Yettaw, starting at 7:30 a.m. (0000 GMT) at the court in the Insein Prison compound.

The doctor was arrested without explanation last week, a day after Yettaw was taken into custody. □



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R	MY BLOODY VALENTINE	daily: 8:00	matinee:	10:10	late show: 12:00	
PG-13	OBSESSED	daily: 5:25	matinee: 12:45	7:45	10:05	late show: 12:25
PG-13	STAR TREK XI	daily: 7:00	matinee: 1:40	9:30	4:20	late show: 12:10
PG-13	GHOSTS OF GIRLFRIENDS PAST	daily: 4:50	matinee: 12:10	2:25	late show:	
PG-13	STATE OF PLAY	daily: 7:15	matinee:	9:45	late show: 12:15	NEW
PG-13	X-MEN ORIGINS: WOLVERINE	daily: 5:15	matinee: 12:30	7:30	2:55	9:50
PG-13	ANGELS & DEMONS	daily: 6:10	matinee: 12:20	9:00	3:15	late show: 11:50

AT PASEO HERENCIA

PG-13	OBSESSED	daily: 5:30	matinee: 12:50	7:45	10:00	late show: 12:20
PG-13	STAR TREK XI	daily: 4:00	matinee: 1:25	6:40	9:15	late show: 11:50
PG-13	GHOSTS OF GIRLFRIENDS PAST	daily: 4:50	matinee: 12:00	7:15	2:30	9:35
PG-13	X-MEN ORIGINS: WOLVERINE	daily: 5:10	matinee: 12:30	7:30	2:50	9:45
PG	MONSTERS VS ALIENS	daily: 4:50	matinee: 12:35	2:40	late show:	
PG-13	STATE OF PLAY	daily: 7:00	matinee:	9:30	late show: 12:00	NEW
PG-13	ANGELS & DEMONS	daily: 5:40	matinee: 12:00	8:30	2:50	late show: 11:20

Somalia insurgents vow fight to topple government

MOHAMED SHEIKH NOR

Associated Press Writer

MOGADISHU, Somalia (AP) — Pro-government militias and Islamic insurgents battled in Somalia's capital Wednesday for a fourth day, as an insurgent leader vowed his forces would not relent until the government is overthrown. Since the weekend, both sides have pounded the northern part of the capital, Mogadishu, with mortars and gunfire in the worst violence in recent weeks. The Elman Human Rights Organization said 113 civilians were killed between Saturday and Monday. On Tuesday there was a lull in the fighting. The organization also said 27,200 people had fled their homes as between Saturday and Tuesday.

The renewed violence in the Horn of Africa nation pits pro-government fighters against those allied to al-Shabab, an insurgent group seeking to overthrow the Western-backed government and establish an Islamic state.

Mohamed Haji, a businessman, said he saw two bodies Wednesday near the Suq Bad market, one of the areas where fighting is taking place. Haji said he saw six wounded people. Fadumo Ali of Medina Hospital said six people wounded in the battles

in northern Mogadishu had been brought in for treatment. Al-Shabab's chairman, Mukhtar Abu Zubeyr, told local radio stations in an interview Wednesday the insurgents would not stop the fighting.

"It will continue until we topple the so-called government," he said.

The U.S. State Department considers al-Shabab a terrorist organization with links to al-Qaida.

A regular meeting in the Ethiopian capital of U.N., African Union and regional diplomats to review the situation in Somalia called Wednesday for an investigation to identify foreign nations, organization or individuals involved in destabilizing Somalia.

The U.N.'s envoy to Somalia and Somalia's national security minister said Tuesday that foreigners are fighting alongside the Somali insurgents.

Omar Jamal, director of the nonprofit Somali Justice Advocacy Center in Minnesota, said he would be surprised if the government was still standing in a few days, "without getting support of the international community."

"Mogadishu is on the verge of collapse to these maniacs.



An Islamic fighter takes up position as he and others, fight pro-government Islamic fighters in the Somali capital, Mogadishu, Sunday, May 10, 2009. Mortars slammed into Somalia's capital including a mosque and several homes killing at least 35 people as pro-government Islamist fighters clashed with gunmen who want to topple the Western-backed government, witnesses and hospital officials said Sunday.

If that happens, God have mercy on us," Jamal told The Associated Press.

Somali government spokesman Abdulkadir Walayo declined to comment.

Somalia has not had an effective government since 1991, when warlords overthrew longtime dictator Mohamed Siad Barre before turning on one another. Somalia's transitional government was formed in

2004, but has failed to assert control over the country.

The insurgents have been trying to topple the government since late 2006, and the lawlessness has allowed piracy to flourish off Somalia's coast.

The U.S. worries that Somalia could be a terrorist breeding ground, particularly since Osama bin Laden declared his support for al-Shabab. The U.S. accuses al-Shabab of

Associated Press

harboring the al-Qaida-linked terrorists who blew up the U.S. embassies in Kenya and Tanzania in 1998.

Al-Shabab controls much of southern Somalia. Ahmed's government directly controls only a few blocks of Mogadishu and one border town. But the president has allies among the militias that control much of central Somalia and pockets of the south. □

PALISTANIAN STATE**Continued from Page B1**

To get to Jesus' traditional birthplace of Bethlehem, Benedict crossed through the towering concrete slabs of the separation barrier Israel has erected to wall off the West Bank's Palestinian areas.

On a visit to a nearby refugee camp, he expressed regret over Israel's construction of the separation barrier. A section of the barrier fortified by an Israeli military watchtower provided a stark backdrop as he spoke. In Bethlehem, he offered a prayer for Israel to lift its blockade of Gaza. But he also urged young Palestinians to "have the courage to resist any temptation to resort to acts of violence or terrorism." It was his first direct mention of terrorism since he arrived in Jordan last Friday on a weeklong Holy Land pilgrimage aimed at inspiring peace and strengthening frayed ties with Muslims and Jews.

At the Aida refugee camp, the pope said it was understandable that Palestinians feel frustrated. "Their legitimate aspirations for permanent homes, for an independent Palestinian state, remain unfulfilled," he said.

Benedict's first visit to Bethlehem since becoming pope took on increased significance as he endorsed the idea of a homeland while standing on Palestinian soil. "Mr. President, the Holy See supports the right of your people to a sovereign Palestinian homeland in the land of your forefathers, secure and at peace with its neighbors, within internationally recognized borders," he said, standing alongside Palestinian



Pope Benedict XVI, center, adjusts his skull cap during a mass in Manger Square next to the Church of the Nativity, believed by many to be the birthplace of Jesus Christ, Wednesday, May 13, 2009. The Pope is on a five day visit to Israel and the Palestinian Territories.

President Mahmoud Abbas.

Benedict's Holy Land pilgrimage was meant largely to boost interfaith relations. But so far, it has been fraught with political land mines. Israelis have criticized the German-born pope for failing to adequately express remorse for the Holocaust, while the Palestinians are pressing him to draw attention to the difficult conditions of life under Israeli rule.

The pope also called for a Palestinian homeland when he arrived in Israel Monday for the five-day visit. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who was in the audience, has resisted international pressure to endorse the idea of a Palestinian state alongside Israel. Netanyahu is to meet the pope on Thursday.

At an open-air mass near Jesus' traditional birth grotto, Benedict delivered a special message of solidarity to the 1.4 million Palestinians isolated in the Hamas-ruled Gaza Strip. He has no plans to visit Gaza.

Israel recently waged a three-week war against Gaza militants that killed more than 1,150 people and badly damaged thousands of homes. The

war compounded suffering already caused by an Israeli and Egyptian blockade of Gaza's borders since Hamas wrested control of Gaza two years ago.

"In a special way, my heart goes out to the pilgrims from war-torn Gaza: I ask you to bring back to your families and your communities my warm embrace, and my sorrow for the loss, the hardship and the suffering you have had to endure," the pope told thousands of Palestinians who packed Manger Square, some hoisting Palestinian and Vatican flags and pictures of the pontiff and Jesus.

"Please be assured of my solidarity with you in the immense work of rebuilding which now lies ahead, and my prayers that the embargo will soon be lifted," he added.

In a gesture for the pope's visit, Israel allowed nearly 100 members of Gaza's tiny Christian community to travel through Israeli territory to the West Bank.

Benedict's singling out of Gaza "means that Gaza is in the pope's heart," said George Hernandez, bishop of the Holy Family Catholic church in Gaza City. "This a very courageous speech and we are satisfied."

At the refugee camp, home

to about 5,000 people, the pope was critical of Israel's separation barrier.

"In a world where more and more borders are being opened up ... it is tragic to see walls still being erected," Benedict said. "How earnestly we pray for an end to the hostilities that have caused this wall to be built."

Israel says the barrier, which snakes hundreds of miles (kilometers) along the West Bank frontier, is a security measure. But the Palestinians say it is a land grab since it juts into areas they claim for a future independent state, leaving some 10 percent of the West Bank on the Israeli "side."

The pope, who has described himself as a "pilgrim of peace," has been forced to navigate some of the touchiest political issues as he makes his way through Israel and the West Bank — his first visit to the region as the head of the Roman Catholic church.

On Tuesday, the Vatican rallied to his defense, describing him as man of strong anti-Nazi credentials and a peacemaker after Israeli critics said he failed to apologize in a speech at Israel's Holocaust memorial for what they see as Catholic indifference

during the Nazi genocide. The Palestinians want the pontiff to put pressure on Israel during his visit. Before he arrived, Bethlehem residents expressed hope that he would use his moral authority to support their quest for independence.

"Our pope is our hope" read posters hung around the town, which was also dotted with the yellow and cream flags of the Vatican and red, black, white and green Palestinian flags.

While Benedict acknowledged Palestinian difficulties, he stopped short of blaming Israel.

"I know how much you have suffered and continue to suffer as a result of the turmoil that has afflicted this land for decades," he said.

Abbas invoked the concrete separation barrier and the occupation in his greeting to the pontiff.

"In this Holy Land, the occupation still continues building separation walls," Abbas said. "Instead of building the bridge that can link us, they are using the force of occupation to force Muslims and Christians to emigrate."

Christians are a tiny minority among the 3.9 million Palestinians who live in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. In a trend seen throughout the Middle East, their numbers have dwindled as Palestinians weary of occupation seek out new opportunities abroad.

"When he comes and visits us, it gives us moral and material support," said Ramzi Shomali, a 27-year-old electric company worker. "It motivates us to stay in our land."

The pontiff brought several gifts to Bethlehem, including a ventilator for a baby hospital and a mosaic representation of the birth of Jesus. He received a handwritten Gospel of Luke. □

Italy cracks down on illegal immigrants, landlords

NICOLE WINFIELD

Associated Press Writer

ROME (AP) — Italian lawmakers voted to fine illegal immigrants up to €10,000 (\$13,670) and jail the people who house them, imposing stiff new penalties in an attempt to stem a flood of migrants on rickety boats from Africa.

The legislation approved Wednesday by the lower house of parliament also lengthens the amount of time illegal migrants can spend in detention from two months to six months and allows towns and city officials to set up local citizen patrols.

Premier Silvio Berlusconi's conservative government is being pressured by the anti-immigrant Northern League party in its coalition to halt illegal migration as Italy's economy shrinks in the global downturn, like others across Europe.

But Italy's plight is particularly acute because its largely unpatrolled coastline and islands close to Africa make it a destination of choice for smuggling operations working out of Libya and other countries.

Some 36,000 migrants from Africa and elsewhere arrived in Italy by boat last year. Under an immigration law adopted when Berlusconi was last in power, immigrants must have a job awaiting them in order to get a residency permit. If illegal migrants don't qualify for asylum, Italian authorities issue expulsion orders. But the Northern League has said those measures have failed to stem the influx, with hundreds of boat people continuing to arrive almost daily.

The new legislation makes entering or staying in Italy without permission a crime punishable by a fine of €5,000-€10,000 (\$6,840-\$13,670). Migrants would not face prison, but the bill provides for up to three years in prison for anyone who knowingly rents housing to an illegal immigrant at the time a lease is signed or extended.

Supporters of the bill easily won a 316-258 confidence vote.

The measure must still be approved by the Senate, where Berlusconi's forces also enjoy a majority.

Some legal experts said that in real terms the new measures were merely symbolic because most illegal immigrants would not be able to pay the fine. But critics charged they could further marginalize those living in Italy illegally by making them afraid to seek medical help or to register their children at birth for fear of being turned in to police, fined and expelled.

Italy receives the world's fourth-highest number of asylum claims each year — after the United States, Canada and France.

As part of its crackdown, Italy last week started sending back to Libya boatloads of migrants it intercepted in international waters without first screening them for asylum claims. The U.N. refugee agency, the Vatican and human rights organizations voiced outrage, saying Italy was breaching international law.

The government, which has complained that it has been left by the European Union to deal with illegal immigration alone, has defended the

new policy, saying the U.N. refugee agency can screen the migrants in Libya.

In Greece, a major entry point for migrants seeking a better future in the EU, illegal entry is a misdemeanor punishable by 6 months to 5 years in prison and a fine, though it is rarely enforced. People who employ illegal migrants face imprisonment of 3 months to 5 years.

There is no law criminalizing illegal immigration in Spain, another frequent entry point for African migrants. Nevertheless, the number of arrivals in Spain's Canary Islands has been decreasing over the past few years, thanks in part to better surveillance of African coasts and Spain's own economic crisis.

The Dutch actually pay illegal migrants, offering small amounts of cash as inducement for migrants to leave immediately after their requests to stay have been rejected, rather than burdening the legal system with further appeals.

Center-right lawmaker Rocco Buttiglione said Italy's new punishments could force migrants to turn to the Mafia or vigilante justice instead of

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Photo by Diane Keijzer



Italian Interior Minister Roberto Maroni shows the map of an operation that shipped more than 200 migrants who had been rescued in the Mediterranean Sea back to Libya, at a press conference in Rome, Thursday May 7, 2009. Authorities based on the tiny Sicilian island of Lampedusa, told The Associated Press that 227 migrants were sent back to Tripoli aboard two coast guard boats as well as a border police boat. Italy contends the migrants had set out in smugglers' boats from Libyan shores. Maroni, speaking on private Italian Canale 5 TV, praised Libya's acceptance of the migrants as a possible "turning point" in the crackdown on illegal immigration.

Associated Press

the police.

But lawmaker Manuela del Lago of the anti-immigrant Northern League party said Italy was embarking on the right path.

"We don't understand why we have to keep them all here, and in other countries they don't

take anyone," she said.

In the past, critics of the Northern League's anti-immigrant policies have noted that many of northern Italy's industries — which form the base of the Northern League's support — rely on migrant labor to survive. □

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SPORTS

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Celtics, Lakers take 3-2 series leads in NBA Playoff

BOSTON (AP) — The Boston Celtics stormed over the top of the Orlando Magic to win 92-88 on Tuesday and take a 3-2 lead in their NBA Eastern Conference semifinals.

Ray Allen's 3-pointer with 1:20 left gave Boston its first lead since the opening minutes.

A lackluster 36 minutes left Boston trailing by 14 points with less than nine minutes to play. The Celtics still trailed by 10 points with 5:39 on the clock, but then scored the 13 points to go ahead 88-85.

Stephen Marbury scored all his 12 points in the final quarter. Paul Pierce had 19 points, nine rebounds and eight assists, Kendrick Perkins grabbed 11 rebounds, and Game 4 hero Glen Davis scored 10 of his 22 points in the fourth quarter. Davis also grabbed the rebound and hit a pair of free throws after Dwight Howard intentionally



Boston Celtics guard Stephon Marbury (8) yells as he drives to the basket against Orlando Magic center Dwight Howard (12) and forward Tony Battie during the first half in Game 5 of the NBA Eastern Conference semifinal basketball playoff series Tuesday, May 12, 2009, in Boston.

Associated Press

NL Roundup

Phillies beat slumping Dodgers

the seventh inning and tied a team record with four steals in one game.

The Dodgers fell to 1-4 without suspended slugger Manny Ramirez, with their lead in the NL West Division cut to three games.

Brewers 6, Marlins 3

In Milwaukee, Prince Fielder hit a pair of two-run homers and Rickie Weeks and Mike Cameron hit solo shots in Milwaukee's win over Florida.

It was the first time this season the Brewers hit four homers in a game. Milwaukee is now five games over .500 after a 4-9 start.

Fielder, who had been hitless in his previous 10 at-bats, singled in the second and hit his first homer in the fourth inning to cut Florida's lead to 3-2.



Philadelphia Phillies' Jayson Werth steals home with Los Angeles Dodgers catcher Russell Martin failing to make the tag in the seventh inning of a baseball game Tuesday, May 12, 2009, in Philadelphia. The Phillies won 5-3.

Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Pitcher Chan Ho Park won his first game with Philadelphia, leading the Phillies to a 5-3 win over the Los Angeles Dodgers in the National League on Tuesday.

Park has rebounded nicely after a dreadful start this season, delivering his second straight effective start. He walked none and gave up just two runs in six innings. Jayson Werth stole home in

missed a free throw with 5.9 seconds left.

"It's all about never giving in and having the heart of a champion," Pierce said.

Dwight Howard had 12 points and 17 rebounds for Orlando, which needs a victory in Game 6 on Thursday to force the series back to Boston for a decisive seventh game.

Lewis scored 19 and Hedo Turkoglu had 18 with seven assists for the Magic, who almost blew a 28-point lead in Game 1, then lost Game 4 on Sunday when Davis hit a 21-foot buzzer-beater.

Boston called a timeout when it trailed by 14 points in the final quarter.

It seemed to work, as Marbury hit a 3-pointer, then another jumper, and after Davis sank a pair of hook shots, Marbury converted a three-point play to make it 83-75. Turkoglu made a jumper to extend the lead to 10 points before Pierce,

Perkins and Rajon Rondo were sent back in the game with 4:55 left.

Two jumpers by Davis, a layup by Pierce and a reverse from Perkins made it 85-83. Davis missed a potential game-tying shot with 1:55 left, but Allen made up for it by putting Boston ahead with a 3-pointer — just his third basket of the game.

Orlando had a chance to take back the lead when Rondo's 3-point attempt as the 24-second clock expired seemed to skim only the net as it came down, and the shot clock buzzer went off. But Perkins, who had grabbed the rebound, argued that the ball tipped the rim, and the referees overruled the initial call, giving the ball back to Boston with just 37 seconds left and allowing them to run the clock down.

Lakers 118, Rockets 78

Continued on Page B12

first.

The Cardinals did almost nothing against Duke following Pujols' 21st home run in 63 games at PNC Park, the most by any opposing player.

In Phoenix, Brandon Phillips homered and drove in two runs for Cincinnati in its win over Arizona.

Pitcher Micah Owings, traded by Arizona last September, went seven innings and allowed only one run, striking out four.

In other NL games it was, Philadelphia 5, L.A. Dodgers 3; Pittsburgh 7, St. Louis 1; N.Y. Mets 4, Atlanta 3, 10 innings; Chicago Cubs 6, San Diego 2; Milwaukee 6, Florida 3; Colorado 12, Houston 1; Cincinnati 3, Arizona 1; and San Francisco 9, Washington 7. □

LeBron James leads All-NBA first team

NEW YORK (AP) — LeBron James was a unanimous selection to the All-NBA first team on Wednesday, after leading Cleveland to a team-best regular-season record and a pair of playoff sweeps of the Detroit Pistons and Atlanta Hawks.

James was put on the first team on every ballot of 122 sportswriters and broadcasters who regularly cover the league. Los Angeles Lakers star Kobe Bryant finished second in voting, making the first team on 119 ballots, while Dwight Howard of the Orlando Magic, Dwyane Wade of the Miami Heat and Dirk Nowitzki of the Dallas Mavericks rounded out the first team.

James, the league's MVP, was a first-team selection for the second straight season after finishing second in the NBA in scoring average at 28.4 points and ranking in the top 10 in steals and assists. He led the Cavaliers to a team-best 66-16 record, including a 39-2 mark at home, and the team's first top seed in the playoffs. They've only been gaining momentum since then.

The Cavaliers made it 8-for-8 in the playoffs on Monday, completing a second straight sweep with an 84-74 win over the Hawks. Along with their dominant sweep of Detroit, Cleveland has won an NBA-record eight consecutive playoff games by double figures.

The Cavaliers should be well-rested for the Eastern Conference finals against Boston or Orlando, a series the Celtics lead 3-2 entering Game 6 on Thursday.

Howard had 17 rebounds but just 12 points while taking only 10 shots in the Magic's 92-88 loss on Tuesday, but he's the biggest reason Orlando is still alive.

After becoming only the fourth player to lead the league in rebounding and blocked shots since 1973-74, when the block became an official statistic,

LB Jason Taylor rejoins Dolphins

STEVEN WINE
AP Sports Writer

MIAMI (AP) — Linebacker Jason Taylor turned down \$8.5 million for another season with the Washington Redskins to return to the Miami Dolphins on a \$1.5 million, one-year contract on Wednesday.

The 34-year-old Taylor played his first 11 NFL seasons with Miami before being traded a year ago to Washington — a fallout from his stint on the TV show "Dancing With the Stars." He was released by Washington in March after one injury-plagued season.

The New England Patriots courted Taylor in recent weeks, but he wanted to return to South Florida, where he still lives.

"My heart has always been in Miami, and so I'm truly excited to call myself a Dolphin once again," Taylor said in a statement. "I was presented with a number of different opportunities, but in the end the combination of this being the best situation for my family, my love for this community and my tremendous loyalty to a great organization made this an easy decision."

Taylor made the Pro Bowl six times with Miami and was NFL Defensive Player of the Year in 2006.

He didn't like being away from his wife and three children last season and wanted to rejoin the Dolphins regardless of how much money Washington offered, said his agent, Gary Wichard.

"Jason told me, 'Tell the Dolphins whatever fits their budget, I'm ready to play,'" Wichard said. "There were no negotiations. It was always going to be Miami."

Wichard said he also turned down a couple of movie offers because Taylor didn't want to be away from his family. Taylor has been plotting a Hollywood career since joining the Dolphins as a rookie in 1997, and he envisions himself in the kind of action roles that made Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson a movie star. □

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Cleveland Cavaliers' LeBron James waves to the crowd as he leaves the court after defeating the Atlanta Hawks 84-74 in Game 4 of the NBA Eastern Conference semifinals basketball playoffs in Atlanta, Monday, May 11, 2009.

Associated Press

the 6-foot-11 forward has averaged 20 points and leads all players with 16.1 rebounds in the postseason.

Bryant finished third in the league with 26.8 points, leading the Lakers to a Western Conference-best 65-17 finish. He needed only three quarters to score 26 points on Tuesday, when the Lakers routed the Houston Rockets 118-78 to take a 3-2 lead in their series. They play Game 6 on Thursday.

Wade was a first-team selection for the first time after leading the league in scoring at 30.2 points, finishing second in steals and eighth in assists. He also became the fifth player in league history to reach 2,000 points, 500 assists, and 150 steals in a single season.

Nowitzki was the league's fourth-leading scorer and helped the Mavericks to a 50-32 finish.

"This is a great honor and means that you have played

solid basketball for the whole season," Nowitzki said. "This is about being consistent and helping the team night in and night out."

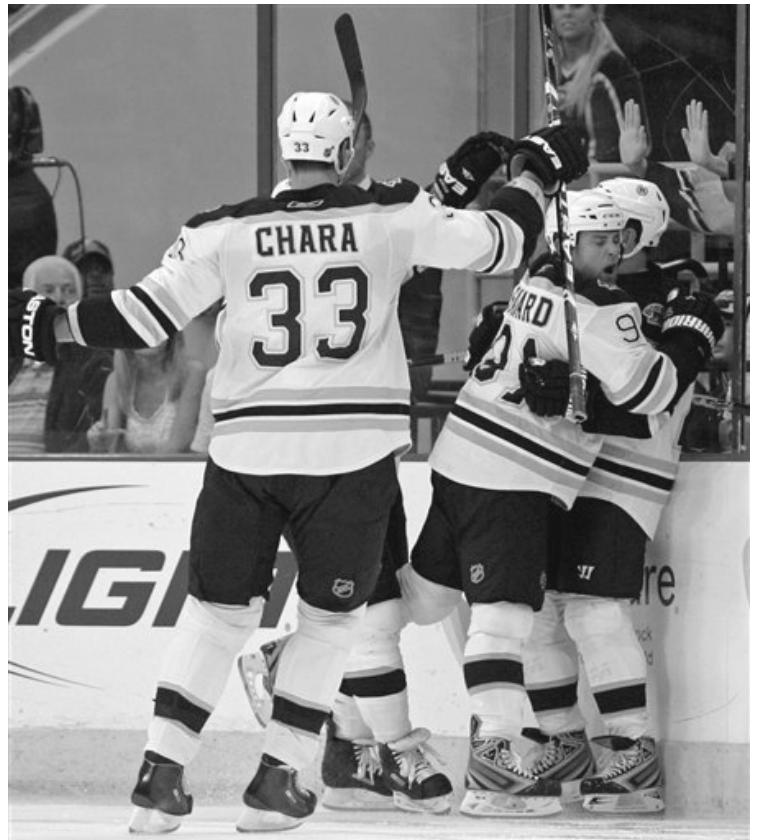
Dallas beat the San Antonio Spurs in five games in the first round of the playoffs, but was on the brink of elimination entering Game 5 against the Denver Nuggets late Wednesday. The All-NBA second team consisted of New Orleans guard Chris Paul, Brandon Roy of the Portland Trail Blazers, Tim Duncan of the Spurs, Paul Pierce of the Celtics and Houston center Yao Ming, who sustained a season-ending stress fracture in his left foot in Game 3 against the Lakers.

The third team has Denver's Chauncey Billups and San Antonio's Tony Parker at guard, Denver's Carmelo Anthony and the Lakers' Pau Gasol at forward, and Phoenix's Shaquille O'Neal at center. □

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TO DRUGS

NHL Playoffs

Bruins, Ducks both win to force Game 7s



Boston Bruins' Zdeno Chara (33), from Slovakia, Marc Savard, center, and Mark Recchi celebrate Savard's goal against the Carolina Hurricanes during the second period of Game 4 of an NHL hockey Eastern Conference semifinal series in Raleigh, N.C., Friday, May 8, 2009.

Associated Press

NBA PLAYOFFS

Continued from Page B10

In Los Angeles, the hosts bounced back from their Game 4 flop, routing Houston on Tuesday to take a 3-2 lead in the Western Conference semifinals.

The top-seeded Lakers did everything they didn't do in Sunday's loss at Houston — hustled, rebounded and played tight defense on Houston's smaller lineup, keeping Aaron Brooks in check and limiting wide-open shots.

On Sunday the Lakers trailed by 29 points. On Tuesday night, they had a 29-point lead by late in the second quarter, on a 3-pointer by Kobe Bryant, who led seven Lakers in double figures.

The Lakers can wrap up the series Thursday in Houston.

"We've got to stay focused

and understand that the effort we gave tonight is not going to be enough on Thursday. It's just not," Bryant said. "We're not playing some chump team. I don't care how many people they have out. This is a tough team, it's a tough team full of competitors."

The Rockets played their second game without Yao Ming, who sustained a season-ending stress fracture in his left foot in Game 3.

Bryant looked more like himself after being held to 15 points on Sunday. With the Lakers far ahead after holding the Rockets to only 15 points in each of the second and third quarters, he sat out the fourth period.

"We played just the opposite we did the last game," Houston coach Rick Adelman said. "We turned it over in the first half, shot it poorly. We said

RALEIGH, North Carolina (AP) — The Boston Bruins beat the Carolina Hurricanes 4-2 on Tuesday to level the Eastern Conference semifinals and force a decisive Game 7. Mark Recchi had a goal and an assist for Boston, while Marc Savard scored before leaving in the third period with an apparent leg injury. Steve Montador and Chuck Kobasew also connected, Patrice Bergeron had two assists and Tim Thomas stopped 31 shots.

The NHL's top remaining seed led 2-0 barely 5 minutes in and made it stand to win its second straight since falling behind 3-1 in the series. Its reward: a trip back to Boston for Thursday Game 7, their first at home since 2004.

And there wasn't even any need to retaliate for what they considered a sucker punch

thrown by Carolina's Scott Walker near the end of Game 5.

Matt Cullen and Sergei Samsonov scored for the Hurricanes. Their first losing streak of the playoffs has put them in danger of blowing a 3-1 series lead for the first time in franchise history.

Ducks 2, Red Wings 1

In Anaheim, California, Ryan Getzlaf and Corey Perry each had a goal and an assist as Anaheim forced a Game 7 in the Western Conference semifinal series against Detroit.

Jonas Hiller made 38 saves as the Ducks, while Scott Niedermayer and Bobby Ryan added assists for the Ducks, who built a two-goal lead in the second period and managed to shut down the Red Wings until Johan Franzen brought Detroit within a goal

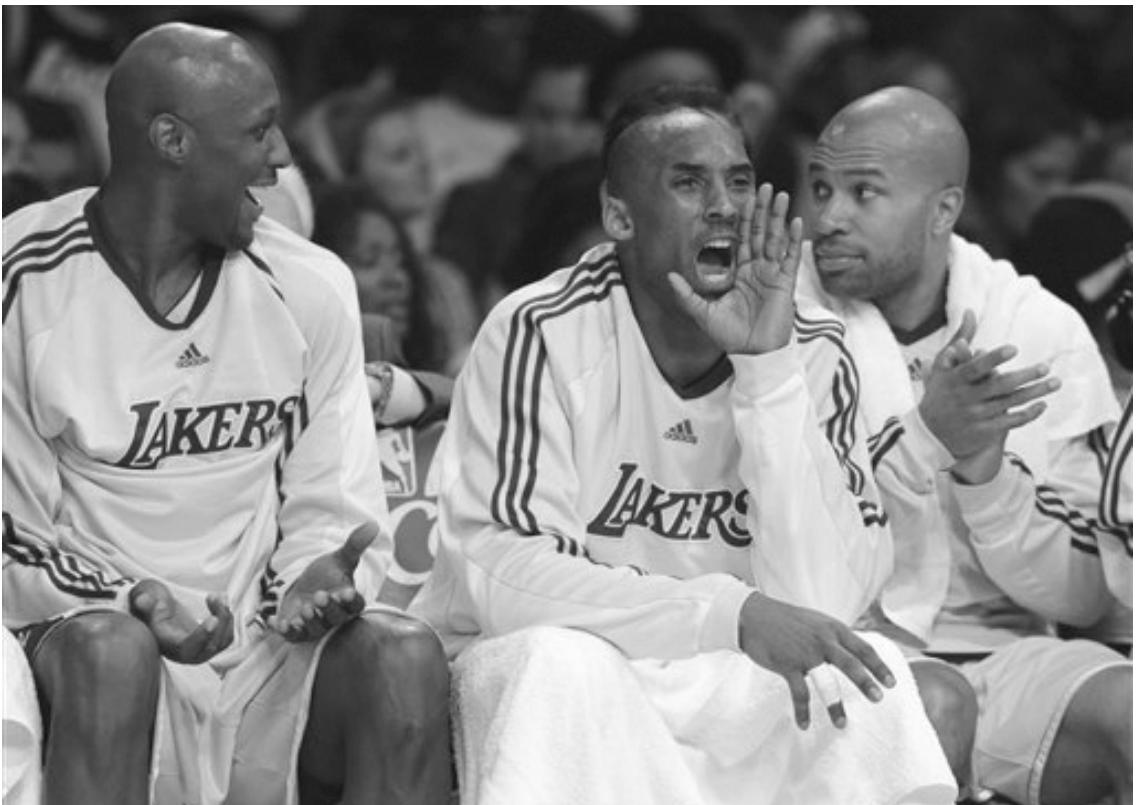
with 2:25 to play.

Game 7 will be in Detroit on Thursday, with the winner moving on to face the Chicago Blackhawks in the conference finals.

Led by their top line of Getzlaf, Perry and Ryan, the Ducks matched the Red Wings' up-tempo attack stride for stride and avoided elimination. The Red Wings had clinched their past eight playoff series wins with victories on the road, and seemed poised to do the same after outskating and outshooting Anaheim 78-45 in consecutive wins in Games 4 and 5.

But facing elimination, the Ducks returned to the form that carried the team to a league-best 10-2-1 mark in the final weeks of the season, then through a first-round upset of the Presidents' Trophy-winning San Jose Sharks. q

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"It just kind of fed their energy level. The second and third quarters are about as bad as we've played in a long time." Pau Gasol had 16 points and 13 rebounds, Andrew Bynum 14 points, Trevor Ariza 13 and Jordan Farmar 12. Lamar

Odom and Josh Powell had 10 apiece.

Brooks was held to 14 points after scoring a career-high 34 on Sunday. Ron Artest had a horrible night shooting, 4-of-15 for nine points.

The Rockets shot only 32 percent.

The Lakers fell behind by six points midway through the first quarter, but it didn't

take them long to respond, outscoring the Rockets 23-6 over the final six minutes of the opening quarter.

With Bryant sitting out at the start of the second quarter, the Lakers didn't lose any of their intensity, going on an 8-0 run to push the lead to 43-24.

With Houston going cold, the Lakers piled it on, taking a 64-35 lead before halftime. □



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Evo Morales no descarta ruptura de relaciones con Perú

LA PAZ (Reuters) - El presidente de Bolivia, Evo Morales, dejó abierta el miércoles la posibilidad de una ruptura de relaciones diplomáticas con Perú, como consecuencia de una disputa sobre el asilo otorgado por Lima a ex ministros bolivianos procesados por genocidio.

“Eso oportunamente definiremos (...), está en debate interno, es parte de un debate y un análisis profundo dentro del Gobierno”, dijo el mandatario indígena en respuesta a una pregunta periodística sobre si preveía una ruptura diplomática entre los dos países miembros de la Comunidad Andina.

Morales hizo la declaración a corresponsales internacionales al día siguiente de que el Gobierno de Alan García confirmara que dio asilo a tres ex ministros bolivianos que deben someterse la próxima semana a un juicio en la Corte Suprema por una masacre y delitos económicos.

Esos tres ministros integran una lista de 17 personas, encabezadas por el ex presidente Gonzalo Sánchez de Lozada -refugiado en Estados Unidos-, que enfrentan un juicio de responsabilidades por una masacre de manifestantes y delitos económicos cometidos en octubre del 2003.

“Estamos analizando seriamente éstas actitudes del presidente Alan García y su Gobierno. Estas actitudes (...) ponen en alto riesgo las relaciones diplomáticas con el Gobierno y con el pueblo boliviano”, dijo Morales.

“En las épocas de las dictaduras militares en Latinoamérica el asilo o refugio era para defender los derechos humanos, ahora es para defender a los delincuentes (...) eso hace Alan García”, agregó.

La crisis estalló el pasado domingo, cuando el presidente boliviano denunció como “provocación” a la decisión peruana de dar el asilo

solicitado por los tres ex ministros, que huyeron al aproximarse el juicio oral que culminará un proceso iniciado hace más de cinco años por denuncia de Morales, entonces diputado.

Hace dos semanas, Perú otorgó asilo político por “razones humanitarias” al líder opositor venezolano Manuel Rosales, quien enfrenta en su país acusaciones de corrupción y afirma que es perseguido político del Gobierno de Hugo Chávez, aliado de Morales.

Tras la decisión, Venezuela anunció el retiro de su embajador en Perú y puso en evaluación las relaciones con Lima.

Las fricciones entre Bolivia y Perú empezaron en el 2007, cuando Lima solicitó a La Paz la extradición de Wálter Chávez, acusado de terrorismo en Perú y de ser recaudador del Movimiento Revolucionario Túpac Amaru (MRTA). □



El presidente de Bolivia, Evo Morales, habla en una conferencia de prensa en La Paz, 13 mayo 2009. REUTERS/David Mercado

Muere compositor colombiano de música vallenata Rafael Escalona

BOGOTÁ (Reuters) - El famoso compositor colombiano de música vallenata Rafael Escalona murió el miércoles como consecuencia de una complicación cardíaca y renal, informó la clínica donde permanecía internado.

El artista, de 81 años, había nacido en el municipio de Patillal, en el departamento de Cesar, en el norte de Colombia, en la zona del país donde más se compone y disfruta el popular ritmo del folclor que se interpreta con acordeón, caja y guacharaca.

Escalona compuso gran cantidad de canciones populares como “La casa en el aire”, “El Testamento”, “La Custodia de Badillo”, “La brasilera” y “Dina Luz”, entre otras.

El compositor fue inmortalizado por el Nobel

Gabriel García Márquez en su obra cumbre “Cien Años de Soledad” cuando escribió “... los cantos de Rafael Escalona, el sobrino del obispo”.

Su vida y obra como compositor y cantante inspiraron en 1991 la serie de televisión “Escalona” que fue protagonizada por el cantante y actor Carlos Vives, uno de los principales exponentes del vallenato a nivel internacional.

Escalona, quien fue diplomático, recibió varios reconocimientos a lo largo de su vida, entre los que se destaca el entregado en el 2006 por la junta directiva de los Grammy Latinos en Nueva York. □

Obispos eligen a nuevo secretario de Celam

MANAGUA (AP) - El obispo de Guadalajara, José Leopoldo González, fue nombrado nuevo secretario del Consejo Episcopal Latinoamericano (Celam) que celebra en esta capital su asamblea bienal.

González sustituye en el cargo al arzobispo de Puebla, México, Víctor Sánchez, informó, el arzobispo de Aparecida, Brasil, Monseñor Raymundo Damasceno, presidente del Celam.

Sánchez, en rueda de prensa negó que la iglesia Católica esté perdiendo fieles por aquellos que deciden profesar otra fe, pues “hay cada día más bautizados”. Agregó que la iglesia Católica “no tiene ningún objetivo proselitista y, por tanto, no tiene como misión para combatir o enfrentar los evangélicos”. □

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